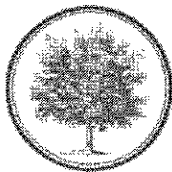


From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 4:01 PM
To: Adams, Alexandra
Subject: Buckeye Institute Experts Weigh-In on Budget Conference Committee Report

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Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms
(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 28, 2017

Buckeye Institute Experts Weigh-In on Budget Conference Committee Report

Columbus, OH - The Senate and House have passed the Budget Conference Committee Report and experts from **The Buckeye Institute** issued their reactions.

"The final version of the state budget that is heading to Governor Kasich's desk is one of the best budgets we have seen in a while in Ohio," said **Greg R. Lawson**, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute. "While there could have been greater spending reductions, along with greater reform of school funding and local taxes, there was solid spending restraint and efforts to contain Medicaid spending -- the 'Pac-Man' of Ohio's budget. These are all noteworthy accomplishments."

Several major policies The Buckeye Institute has advocated for made it through the legislative process, including:

- Greater spending restraint;
- Making it clear that the policy of the state is to seek the least restrictive regulations when dealing with occupational licensing;
- Several key criminal justice reforms;
- Reform to business municipal income tax filing;
- Freezing Medicaid expansion enrollment; and
- Setting a deadline for applying for a state innovation waiver in order to regain some control over Ohio's health insurance marketplace.

Spending

"The budget keeps a tighter rein on spending than most recent budgets, with all funds spending in fiscal years 2018 and 2019 increasing by 2.4 percent and 2.1 percent respectively. When looking at just state general revenues, Ohio will spend less in FY2019 than it was projected to spend by the end of the current fiscal year on June 30," said Lawson. "This move to a more sustainable level of state spending will help secure prosperity for Ohioans and their children."

Medicaid

"The General Assembly took a bold step in ensuring that needy Ohioans can get access to the medical care they need. The Assembly's budget calls for changes to the Medicaid program that will boost health care savings for many Medicaid recipients and help move them into private coverage," said **Rea S. Hederman Jr.**, executive vice president at The Buckeye Institute and a nationally recognized expert in healthcare policy. "Ohio became the first state in the nation to call for a freeze on the Medicaid expansion population, which will focus the program on the truly needy and encourage able bodied adults to return to work. Medicaid enrollment has exceeded forecasts on both enrollment and costs, and this budget will help make the program sustainable for the future."

Criminal Justice

"At every step of the budget process, starting with Governor Kasich's original budget through conference committee, Ohio policymakers showed devotion to providing tools and resources to make Ohio communities safer and save taxpayer dollars through criminal justice reform," said **Daniel J. Dew**, legal fellow at The Buckeye Institute's **Legal Center**. "When society sends low-level offenders to prison, taxpayers pay a hefty bill only to see these people come back to our communities alienated from society and more dangerous than when they went in. The governor, the Senate, and the House all recognize that Ohioans deserve a better return on their investment."

Dew continued, "By providing resources to Ohio communities, the budget's **Target Community Alternatives to Prison** (TCAP) program will allow local judges, law enforcement, and prosecutors to get low-level offenders, many of whom are struggling with addiction and mental health issues, the treatment necessary to help prevent a life of hardened crime. TCAP has been a success in the eight pilot program counties, and as it is adopted around the state, Ohioans everywhere will reap the benefits of evidence-based policy."

###

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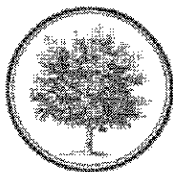
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 7:52 PM

To: Adams, Alexandra

Subject: Dun, dun, dun--Kasich's time for choosing--the Ohio budget and two paths

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

In case you were wondering what the bloody h-e-double-hockey-stick is happening in the war going on tonight and tomorrow over Ohio's biennial budget, we have a timely update: Governor Kasich--by law--has until Friday to either sign or veto the final budget that was passed today before the new fiscal year begins on Saturday....

Pressure is mounting. All eyes are once again on our beloved state.

In this battle, your Buckeye Institute has indefatigably supplied the intellectual ammunition of good policy to a legislature that was set on trying to do the fiscally responsible thing.

Governor Kasich is big on making choices as to taking one of two paths, and his time for choosing has officially arrived.

There is a fiscally responsible option, which is to sign the budget, and there is a decision that would saddle our children and grandchildren with unsustainable levels of government programs and spending for generations, which is to line-item veto the waiver provisions upon which Ohio Senate President Larry Obhof heroically insisted.

Your Buckeye Institute has spoken up every chance we had--in the thick of negotiations, to the media, and publicly on the record to anyone who would listen.

There is now nothing more that we can do except cross our fingers, hope, and pray to {insert deity of your choice} that Governor Kasich returns to his fiscally conservative roots and proves how firm his friendship is to O-H-I-O.

A few hours ago, Buckeye's Executive Vice President Rea Hederman posted a new piece in The Hill explaining the Medicaid expansion and healthcare issue more fully in an article worth reading, "[Ohio is blazing the trail on healthcare reform.](#)"

To paraphrase Bill Clinton, the big-government jig is up, friends.

It's time to put Obamacare down to its final resting place and lead these United States back toward freedom and prosperity.

Your call, Mr. Governor.

Let's do it! Let's put Ohio back on the map as the undisputed leader of our nation once again. Blaze that trail. Show the rest of the states how it's done by rejecting Obamacare and securing Ohio the flexibility we need to chart our own path forward in healthcare.

###

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From: The Buckeye Institute

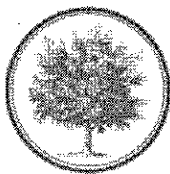
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2017 8:02 AM

To: Adams, Alexandra

Subject: ICYMI: Buckeye's Rea Hederman in The Hill looking at the bold health care initiatives that Ohio's General Assembly passed

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Buckeye's Rea Hederman has a new piece in *The Hill* looking at the bold health care initiatives that Ohio's General Assembly passed where he says:

"Like many other states across the country, Ohio lawmakers have had enough. Emboldened by the Trump Administration's professed willingness to extend states flexibility on health care and rejoin them at the bargaining table, Ohio will soon be sending Washington Medicaid and state innovation waiver requests designed to curb Medicaid expansion and cut cost overruns."

You can follow Rea on Twitter [@ReaHedermanJr](#).

Ohio, Blazing the Trail on Health Care Reform

The Hill

By Rea S. Hederman Jr.

June 28, 2017

Ohio is a bellwether state -- it has always has been. So as the U.S. Senate grapples with health care reform legislation and the lingering legacy of ObamaCare, senators would be

well-advised to pay attention to the bold health care initiatives that Ohio's General Assembly just passed.

After Ohio Governor John Kasich unilaterally expanded Ohio's Medicaid program in 2013, the state's Medicaid rolls have since ballooned by more than 700,000 people -- 40 percent more than originally projected. The pac-man of virtually every state's budget continues to devour ever-larger chunks of the state's resources and has pushed Ohio's own budget to the brink.

Like many other states across the country, Ohio lawmakers have had enough. Emboldened by the Trump Administration's professed willingness to extend states flexibility on health care and rejoin them at the bargaining table, Ohio will soon be sending Washington Medicaid and state innovation waiver requests designed to curb Medicaid expansion and cut cost overruns.

Ohio's trial balloon will be watched carefully as other states consider their own waivers to help rein-in runaway Medicaid costs and protect their insurance markets.

The state's General Assembly has just insisted that Governor Kasich submit two significant waiver requests to Trump's Administration by early next year. The waivers will reduce Ohio's Medicaid costs and create a more-seamless transition for people moving from Medicaid into affordable private coverage -- something vitally important given the current death spiral of Obamacare exchanges.

First, the Healthy Ohio program will reduce Medicaid costs and help recipients obtain private coverage. Building on the foundation of Healthy Indiana, Healthy Ohio will require non-disabled Medicaid recipients to contribute to a health savings account, or HSA, and earn rewards for embracing healthier lifestyle choices.

Medicaid recipients who do not pay into a HSA within 60 days will lose coverage until they make the appropriate payment. The Healthy Ohio program will reinforce personal responsibility for medical care and help those with limited histories of receiving coverage acclimate to private health insurance markets.

The second waiver, known as a state innovation or 1332 waiver, will ask Washington to waive several costly burdens imposed by Obama-era regulations, including the unpopular individual mandate and many of the coverage mandates forced on consumers participating in Obamacare exchanges.

The U.S. Senate's healthcare bill appears poised to expand the use of 1332 waivers -- and that's a good sign. As someone once said, elections have consequences, and with Trump in town Ohio and several other states stand ready to return their health insurance markets to more competitive, cost-effective days.

In addition to insisting on seeking greater flexibility from Washington, the Ohio Senate and conservatives in the Ohio House won a hard-fought budget battle and managed to freeze the state's expanded Medicaid population.

Individuals already enrolled in the expanded population may remain in the program, but as of July 1, 2018, Ohio will not cover the expanded Medicaid population created under the Obamacare framework. Such a freeze will gradually reduce caseloads and focus Medicaid dollars on the most needy -- and Ohio Senators especially, who stood their ground fighting for these reforms, deserve applause and appreciation for their efforts.

As long as Governor Kasich does not misguidedly veto the Assembly's significant achievements, Ohio will blaze a trail for other states to follow as they try to regain control of their healthcare and insurance markets. And once again, as Ohio goes, so goes the nation.

*Rea S. Hederman Jr. is executive vice president and chief operating officer of **The Buckeye Institute**, a think tank promoting free market principles, and is an expert in healthcare policy.*

###

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From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2017 2:40 PM
To: Best, Carolyn; Adams, Alexandra; Slack, Cora; Miller, Brad; Cho, Joy
CC: Rossman, Brent
Subject: PR ALERT - Goodman budget (sending at 3:10)



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

For Immediate Release:

June 29, 2017

Rossman

Contact: Brent

(614) 644-6265

Rep. Goodman Votes to Rein In Spending and Stop Obamacare, Sends Budget Bill to Governor

COLUMBUS—State Representative Wes Goodman (R-Cardington) today announced that the Ohio House of Representatives has approved the conference committee report on Amended Substitute House Bill 49, the state operating budget. The \$132.8 billion spending plan sets state spending levels for the next two fiscal years. Representative Goodman issued the following statement:

I voted no on the House's initial spending plan for two major reasons: it did not reduce spending levels by a great enough amount and did not make significant enough strides to stop Obamacare's Medicaid expansion in Ohio. I am pleased to report that the conference committee addressed these two concerns, earning my support of the bill today.

State revenue has been coming in under projections for months now, which has required us to make difficult decisions in this budget. Ultimately over a billion dollars in spending was cut from the Governor's proposal to the version of the budget passed, all without raising taxes. The bill now holds spending growth under the rate of inflation, an important accomplishment. In an age where government seems to be always growing and spending more, I am glad to say that the Ohio's budget bucks this trend by limiting growth and forcing the government to live within its means.

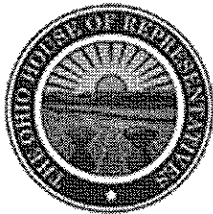
The spending plan passed also freezes enrollment for Obamacare's Medicaid expansion beginning in 2018. This provision puts the brakes on the unsustainable Medicaid program, ensuring that the state's limited resources are preserved for the truly vulnerable. It does this while also ensuring that those who are currently covered through the expansion can maintain their coverage until they are able to improve their situation and obtain a better form of insurance. Make no mistake, this vote is the single most impactful action taken by a state to roll back the Affordable Care Act and ensure better health care choices for Ohioans since the law passed in 2010.

No budget is ever perfect, this one included. Ohio still has many issues confronting us. More must be done to rein in spending and limit the size and scope of government. Businesses and individuals would benefit greatly from fundamental pro-growth tax reform. To remain competitive in the modern economy our state must work to reform labor through right-to-work and get rid of occupational licensing barriers that keep individuals from working. We must ensure that above all, all citizens receive the full protection that the constitutions of the United States and Ohio afford for their liberties."

Am. Sub. H.B. 49 will now head to the Governor for his consideration.

From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2017 3:00 PM
To: Westlake, Libby; Adams, Alexandra; Slack, Cora; Miller, Brad; Cho, Joy
CC: Rossman, Brent
Subject: RE: PR ALERT - Goodman budget (sending at 3:10)

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2017 2:40 PM
To: Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Adams, Alexandra <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Cho, Joy <Joy.Cho@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Rossman, Brent <Brent.Rossman@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: PR ALERT - Goodman budget (sending at 3:10)



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

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June 29, 2017

Rossman

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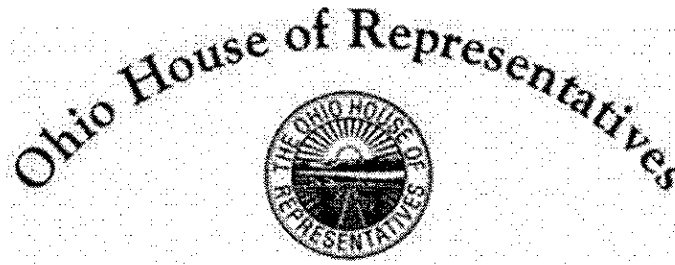
From: Rep87

Sent: Friday, June 30, 2017 1:35 PM

To: GOP_All

Subject: Medicaid Expansion Enrollment Freeze Information

Attachments: Freeze Brief.pdf; We The People Convention Expansion Freeze Poll.pdf



Memorandum

To: House Republican Caucus

From: Representative Wes Goodman

Date: June 30th, 2017

Re: Medicaid Expansion Enrollment Freeze Information

I would first of all like to everyone who has offered their support to the Medicaid expansion enrollment freeze. As I said on this House floor, this is the most impactful action taken by any state to roll back and stop the Affordable Care Act, fulfilling promises we have all made to ensure a higher quality of care for all Ohioans. I thank you for your courage in joining me in the fight to ensure that our citizens are free to make their own healthcare choices, and that our Medicaid program is refocused on serving the truly vulnerable.

By now I am sure you have heard from detractors claiming that the freeze is not in the best interest of Ohioans. I encourage you to take a look at the following resources that support our decision and make clear that an expansion freeze is sound public policy.

- Attached: *Freeze Brief*, provides a general outline and talking points on the expansion freeze.
- Attached: *We the People Convention Expansion Freeze Poll*. This poll was taken yesterday, June 29th, and shows that 60.6% of all Ohioans and 81% of

all Republicans do NOT want Governor Kasich to line-item veto the expansion freeze.

- Articles by Buckeye Institute Executive Vice President Rea Hederman Jr, published in The Hill
 - Highlighting issues with the sustainability and level of care provided by Medicaid: <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/healthcare/336600-medicare-doesnt-work-people-who-are-on-it-dont-have-better>
 - Highlighting and analyzing Ohio's role in "blazing the trail" on Medicaid reform: <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/healthcare/339889-ohio-is-blazing-the-trail-on-healthcare-reform>
- National Review article analyzing the fallaciousness of the bombastic claim, "people will die!":
<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/448952/obamacare-repeal-will-not-kill-thousands>
 - Note that this article is focuses on the claims being made about the Federal healthcare plans. This claim is even more detached from reality when used to decry our expansion freeze, which allows those currently covered to maintain coverage as long as they are eligible.
- Article by Foundation for Government Accountability VP of Research Jonathan Ingram, explaining how the expansion has drawn funding away from the truly vulnerable: <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/healthcare/320620-freezing-obamacare-expansion-will-save-taxpayers-and-the-truly>
- Article by Foundation for Government Accountability Senior Fellow Sam Adolphsen, presenting evidence that the expansion may actually exacerbate the opioid crisis: <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/state-local-politics/339892-want-to-end-the-opioid-epidemic-start-by-freezing>
- Poll from the Foundation for Government Accountability, showing that voters support freezing the Medicaid expansion: <https://thefga.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/National-MedEx-Freeze-Poll-1-23-17.pdf>
- An op-ed that I recently penned that was published by the Daily Signal: <http://dailysignal.com/2017/06/30/ohio-already-rolling-back-parts-obamacare-states-can/>

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to joining you next week to override the Governor's veto, if need be.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or if I can be of assistance to you. My cell phone is (419) 210-0800 and I am available for questions anytime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Wes' or 'Wesley', written in a cursive style.

Medicaid Expansion Freeze Brief

What the Freeze Does

- Prohibits the Medicaid program from covering the Group VIII (expansion) population beginning on July 1, 2018.
- Exempts those with diagnosed mental illnesses or drug addiction, allowing them to enroll after the freeze date.
- Allows those expansion enrollees enrolled by July 1, 2018 to maintain their coverage until they become ineligible or the enhanced federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for the Group VIII population is reduced by federal legislation.

Freezing expansion protects the truly needy

- Ohio's Medicaid waiting list enrollment sits at nearly 60,000. These are Ohioans with severe intellectual and developmental disabilities who aren't getting the care they need.
- Meanwhile, Ohio is spending billions on welfare for able-bodied (mostly childless) adults.
- Every penny spent on these adults is a penny that can't go to help Ohio's truly vulnerable.
- An enrollment freeze would immediately begin to make the truly needy a priority once again by moving able-bodied adults back to independence and freeing up limited resources for the vulnerable.

Freezing expansion protects taxpayers

- Ohio's Medicaid expansion has been overbudget since Day One.
- From January 2014 through March 2017, total expansion costs ran \$6.1 billion higher than originally projected in 2013 – an overrun of 94 percent. By the end of the year, that overrun will total a whopping \$8.3 billion.
- State taxpayers are now on the hook for 5% of these costs, with that share growing to 10% by 2020. Although the state has only been paying a share of the cost for a few months, the state's share has already run \$38 million over projections – an overrun of 125 percent. That overrun is projected to increase to \$145 million by the end of the year.
- Congress is poised to repeal the enhanced funding for expansion altogether. The House version of the American Healthcare Act (AHCA) would eliminate enhanced funding for new enrollees after 2020. The Senate version eliminates enhanced funding through a 3-year phase out, beginning in 2021.
- An enrollment freeze would stop the bleeding immediately, reducing costs and giving taxpayers much-needed relief. Based on the experiences in other states, freezing expansion enrollment at the end of the fiscal year will save between \$4.2 billion and \$5.5 billion over the next biennium. The state share of those savings would total between \$243 million and \$315 million.

Freezing expansion protects enrollees

- An enrollment freeze would allow current enrollees to stay on the program as long as they remain eligible.
- This avoids disruption for enrollees, allowing them to maintain enrollment until their situation improves enough that they can obtain insurance through the individual market or an employer.

Freezing expansion is politically popular

- A national 2017 poll found that voters support freezing Medicaid expansion enrollment by nearly two-to-one margins (53% to 33%).

Freezing expansion is practical and possible

- Other states have used enrollment freezes to unwind pre-ObamaCare expansions to childless adults and to unwind S-CHIP expansions.
- Freezes were previously approved by President Bush and President Obama.
- CMS can grant a waiver to allow states to freeze enrollment.
- CMS is set to release new guidance that will provide state options to freeze enrollment and reduce eligibility levels in the expansion.

Freezing expansion would have no effect on the drug addicted and mentally ill

- Mental health and addiction services accounted for only 5.62% of total expansion spending in 2016.
- Conference committee's version of the budget exempts individuals with mental health and drug addictions from the freeze, allowing them to enroll or reenroll past the freeze date of July 1, 2018.

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, June 29, 2017

POLL SHOWS OHIOANS – ESPECIALLY REPUBLICANS – DEMAND MEDICAID EXPANSION FREEZE

Akron, OH – Tom Zawistowski, President of the We the People Convention announced the results of a statewide Ohio poll tonight concerning the Medicaid Expansion Freeze that was included in the Budget just passed on Wednesday by the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate. Contrary to polls put out by medical groups and others who benefit financially from Medicaid Expansion, the We the People Convention Poll shows that 60.6% of all Ohioans do NOT want Governor Kasich to line-item veto the Medicaid Expansion Freeze in the budget, which does not cut anyone's Medicaid benefits, but simply stops growing the program that is already \$7 Billion over budget. Furthermore, the survey showed that if Governor Kasich does line-item veto the Medicaid Expansion Freeze, a plurality of all Ohioans, 51.7% to 49.3%, said that they would want the Ohio House and Ohio Senate to reconvene next week and override the Governor's veto.

Since the state is controlled by Republicans and the Budget was pass with only Republican votes, all of them from Governor Kasich, to Speaker Rosenberger and Senate President Obhof, and every Republican in the Ohio House and Ohio Senate, will get a very strong message from the poll results from their Republican voters. A total of 81% of Republican voters do NOT want Governor Kasich to line-item veto the Medicaid Expansion Freeze. Then an equally strong 68.5% of Republican voters want Republicans in the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate to Override the Governor's Veto if required.

Commenting on the poll, Zawistowski said, "Ohioans understand that Governor Kasich's Medicaid Expansion is simply unsustainable. We credit the Republican members of the Ohio House and Ohio Senate, and their leadership, for recognizing that someone has to stop Kasich before he bankrupts Ohio. While we in the TEA Party/Liberty movement believe that Medicaid Expansion should be ended – its not Medicaid it is welfare expansion – we were convinced that a first step of just stopping the growth of the program, without cutting anyone's benefits, was a "caring way" to take a first step as our Governor likes to say. We fully expect him to line-item veto the Medicaid Expansion Freeze because John Kasich sees no reason to ever stop giving other people's money away while pretending he cares so much about people – but never mentioning the tax payers who pay for all his misguided spending. Therefore, we also fully expect, and all Republicans should expect, all 59 House Members who voted for the budget with the Freeze in it on Wednesday, and ALL 7 members who did not vote for the budget, to join all 23 members of the Senate next Thursday, July 6th and impose some financial sanity on the Governor by overriding his veto and representing their constituents – particularly the tax payers in their districts who are paying the bill for this irresponsible and unnecessary spending."

This Ohio poll was conducted for the We the People Convention, Inc. by TRZ Communications Services, Inc. of Akron, Ohio which was the polling company that first predicted the Trump Ohio landslide victory in last year's Presidential election. This automated poll was conducted on Thursday, June 29, 2017 between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM. The poll was designed to gather public opinion on the issue of Freezing Medicaid Expansion in Ohio. Calls were placed to 45,105 randomly selected voters from our data base of 4.5 million current land line phone numbers in Ohio. Of the 9,901 who answered our call, 625 respondents completed our automated poll, a 6.3% response rate. The poll has a margin of error of $\pm 4.0\%$ at the 95% confidence level. Demographically 26.99% of respondents vote Democrat, 29.6% vote Republican and 43% do not affiliate with any party. The gender breakdown was 57.68% women and 42.32% men. Results were gathered from 80 of the 88 Counties in Ohio. Every age group from 24 year olds to 90 year olds were surveyed.

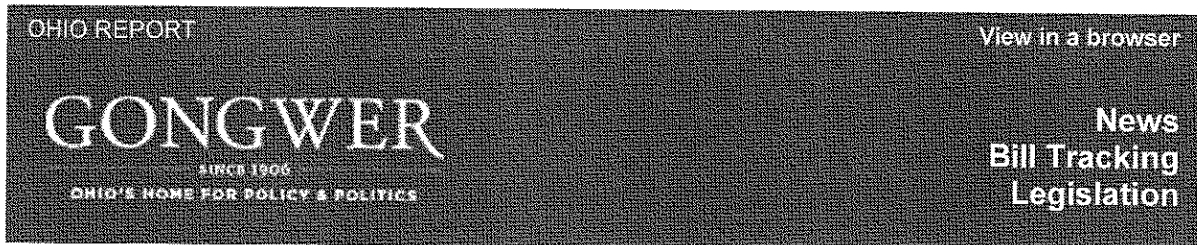
Answer	Number	Percent	Republicans	Democrats	Independents
Veto the Freeze	246	39.4%	35 - 19%	90 - 52.3%	121 - 45%
Do NOT Veto the Freeze	379	60.6%	149 - 81%	82 - 47.7%	148 - 55%
Override the Veto	317	51.7%	126 - 68.5%	65 - 37.8%	126 - 46.8%
Do NOT Override the Veto	308	49.3%	58 - 31.5%	107 - 62.2%	142 - 53.2%

Source: <http://www.wethepeopleconvention.org/>

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Monday, August 7, 2017 5:57 PM
To: DL_Gongwer
Subject: Ohio Report, Monday, August 7, 2017
Attachments: Aug7House.htm; 170807dayplan.htm; Aug7.htm; Aug7Senate.htm

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OHIO REPORT MONDAY, AUGUST 7

Collective Bargaining Consultant Contract Gets Controlling Board Approval

Seitz Plans To Push For Passage Of Death Penalty Exemption Bill This Fall

Supporters Hope Palliative Care Measure Gains Traction After Recess

Long-Awaited Federal Study To Protect Great Lakes From Asian Carp Released

Environmental Groups Question Rover Excuses For Fuel In Wetland Spills

Tavares Bill Aimed At Gender Pay Gap; Schiavoni Targets Charter Overpayments; Renacci, Pillich Announce Endorsements...

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House Activity for Monday, August 7, 2017

INTRODUCED

HB 315 ■ **DAY DESIGNATION (Arndt, S.)** To designate October 6 as "S.M.A.R.T. Parent Day." En. 5.257

HB 316 ■ **PICNIC AREA NAMING (Arndt, S., Stein, D.)** To designate a picnic area in Kelleys Island State Park as the "Henry T. Beatty Memorial Picnic Area." Am. 1546.30

HB 317 ■ **TAX DEDUCTION (Young, R.)** To authorize, for six years, a personal income tax deduction for a physician based on the number of hours the physician provides uncompensated medical services through a hospital, free clinic, or nongovernmental medical organization. Am. 5747.01 and to enact section 5747.014

HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS

Finance: Remove Representative Faber

Finance Subcommittee on State Government and Agency Review: Remove Representative Faber.

Public Utilities: Remove Representative Faber; appoint Representative Stein

Aging and Long Term Care: Appoint Representative Brown.

Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security: Appoint Representative Brown.

Civil Justice: Remove Representative Sykes; appoint Representative Brown.

State and Local Government: Appoint Representative Brown.

Power Siting Board: Remove Representative Hagan; appoint Representative Carfagna

New African Immigrants Commission: Kefa Otiso and Beatrice Miringu

Ohio Public Works Commission: Dean Ringle

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Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, August 8

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

Board of Building Appeals, ODOT District Three Office, 906 Clark Ave., Ashland, 8:30 a.m.

Third Frontier Commission, Rev1 Ventures, 1275 Kinnear Rd., Columbus, 10 a.m.

House Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia, Netzley Room, Statehouse, Columbus, 1 p.m.

Event Planner

National Conference of State Legislatures Legislative Summit, Boston

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) and Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) fundraiser, Mike and Samantha Hartley residence, 403 South Court Street, Circleville, 6 p.m., (\$1,000 Chair | \$500 Sponsor | \$250 Host | \$100 Supporter | \$75 per Couple | \$50 Individual to Peterson for Good Government and Troy Balderson for State Senator)

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Volume #86, Report #151 -- Monday, August 7, 2017

Collective Bargaining Consultant Contract Gets Controlling Board Approval

Controlling Board members on Monday approved a new contract for a Columbus law firm to do consulting work on collective bargaining issues after lawmakers asked about the job and procurement process for the contract.

Without objection, the board approved the \$480,000 contract between the Department of Administrative Services and Baker Hostetler, LLP. The firm will provide labor relations and collective bargaining consulting and negotiation services.

Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) asked if the state was developing the internal capacity to handle labor issues and contracts without having to pay outside help.

Jennifer Leymaster, chief financial officer for DAS, said negotiations for large contracts often require outside assistance.

"It is customary for us to seek outside consulting services when doing the negotiation for these major contracts, as I believe is customary for organizations of our size," she said.

Kristen Rankin, deputy director for the DAS Office of Collective Bargaining, said the work fluctuates year-to-year as different contracts come up for renewal.

She said the state has been working with Baker Hostetler since 2014 and the firm has a good understanding of the state's labor relations.

Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) asked about the increase in the value of the contract this year, up from about \$300,000 last year.

Ms. Rankin said the state is entering negotiations with its largest union this year, meaning there will be more work ahead.

The board also approved several contracts from the treasurer's office after Sen. Tavares asked for the reasoning behind waiving competitive selection.

Deputy Treasurer Seth Metcalf said all of the items were continuations of ongoing projects. In one case, the office did receive another bid, but it was significantly higher than the bid by the existing contract. That project involves custom-built software designed by the current contractor.

"We suspect that the additional bid was very high because the learning curve for a new provider would have been significant," he said.

The board approved a request for more than \$8.3 million over two years from DAS for a contract for postage funds. Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) asked if other firms, such as Stamps.com, might be able to offer the state better rates.

Ms. Leymaster said firms like Stamps.com might not be able to handle the volume of mail the state sends out, but that DAS would look into it.

The board accepted a transfer of \$2.2 million from the Emergency Management Agency into its emergency fund, repaying the final payment of the money used to reimburse states that sent law enforcement to help at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland last year. The EMA said it has received reimbursement from Cleveland for all of the 18 states that assisted.

A request for \$605,961 from the Department of Developmental Disabilities to improve the fire alarm system at Cambridge Developmental Center was deferred.

Other items approved by the board included: (Agenda)

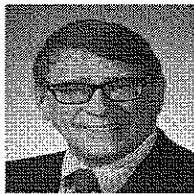
- \$534,000 - Central State University - for a library structural repair and modernization project.
- \$3.2 million - Clark State Community College - for renovation of Rhodes Hall.
- \$2.4 million - Columbus State Community College - for the Culinary and Hospitality School building project.
- \$226,275 - Department of Health - to purchase cystic fibrosis test kits.
- \$374,400 - Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services - for a contract for forensic psychiatric services at Summit Behavioral Healthcare in Cincinnati.
- \$1.2 million - Department of Developmental Disabilities - to contract with various providers for early intervention hearing services for children.
- \$1.1 million - Department of Natural Resources - for a contract amendment to provide construction administration and material testing at Buckeye Lake Dam.
- \$5.3 million - ODNR - to contract for improvements at a variety of state parks.
- \$749,510 - Department of Rehabilitation and Correction - to replace the roof at the Corrections Training Academy in Orient.
- \$53.6 million - Department of Transportation - for contracts with 52 consulting firms for a variety of services.

- \$212,154 - Bureau of Workers' Compensation - to renew a contract for IT services analyzing business processes.

Seitz Plans To Push For Passage Of Death Penalty Exemption Bill This Fall

The sponsor of a bill to exempt the seriously mentally ill from the death penalty expects the measure to move in the fall.

The legislation (HB 81~~00~~) would exempt from the death penalty those diagnosed with schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder or delusional disorder at the time a capital offense was committed.



Bill Seitz

"I'm raring and ready to go as soon as we get back to try and move this forward in the House," sponsoring Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) said in an interview.

The bill has had three hearings in the House Criminal Justice Committee. Rep. Seitz said he was ready to move the measure prior to lawmakers leaving town for summer vacations, but he was told to hold off.

"We were really ready to go at the end of session back a month ago, but they wanted to keep controversial things off the radar screen as we focused all of our attention on the conference committee process and budget overrides and things like that," he said.

Chairman Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) expressed uncertainty about the fate of the bill in the Senate Judiciary Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 4, 2017)

But Rep. Seitz said he is confident about the bill's prospects in the upper chamber.

"All I can tell Senator Bacon is that when I had the bill the last time in that chamber, there were 31 of 33 senators ready to vote for it. Maybe he hasn't started counting noses yet," he said, adding that the two opponents of the last version of the bill are now serving in the House.

The bill has run into stiff opposition from the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association. Executive Director John Murphy has said that current law already provides those suffering from mental illness with the opportunity to be deemed incompetent to stand trial or mount a not guilty by reasons of insanity defense. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 6, 2017)

Despite the opposition, Rep. Seitz does not believe the OPAA will be able to sink the bill.

"It's got an awful lot of support and the only people that have come out against it are the prosecutors and their reasoning doesn't satisfy me," he said. "They were opposed to it the last time on the same basis."

Given the state's recent resumption of the death penalty, Rep. Seitz believes the bill will gain even more traction. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 26, 2017)

"I think with all the recent furor over the resumption of executions in Ohio people ought to at least recognize this for progress in terms of narrowing the range of cases in which the death penalty may be imposed," he said.

The legislation is based off of one of several recommendations made by the Ohio Supreme Court's Joint Task Force to Review the Administration of Ohio's Death Penalty.

"The bottom line is this was a central recommendation of the death penalty task force," Rep. Seitz said.

Supporters Hope Palliative Care Measure Gains Traction After Recess

Legislation first offered last year and introduced again in June intends to increase awareness and access to palliative care for patients with serious health conditions.

The bill (HB 286), sponsored by Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chagrin Falls), would establish a state council to oversee palliative care and create programs to raise awareness and utilization of the approach.



Rep. LaTourette

It's a personal issue for the sponsor. Her father, former U.S. Rep. Steve LaTourette, received palliative care before his death last year from pancreatic cancer. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 7, 2017)

"I saw the dramatic difference that access to early palliative care had on his life and our lives," Rep. LaTourette said in an interview. "I want everybody in the state to be aware that palliative care is not just hospice care."

Rep. LaTourette first introduced the measure (HB603, 131st General Assembly) toward the end of the last General Assembly. It received a hearing before the House Health and Aging Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 26, 2016)

The new version of the bill retains almost all of that proposal's components but does not include provisions that would levy fees or fines on hospitals that don't comply, she said. That has eased some concerns from industry groups, she said.

The move toward expanding the reach of palliative care is a priority for advocacy groups such as the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, who included the practice on their annual report card for state cancer policies. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 4, 2017)

Jeff Stephens, ACS CAN's state government relations director for Ohio, said the group is also working on similar legislation at the federal level.

"It's a form of treatment that's been proven to increase health outcomes at a reduced overall health care cost. It works," he said.

The bill would create an interdisciplinary advisory council at the Department of Health and create a set of criteria to identify patients who are best suited to the care approach.

"We do a pretty OK job of offering it in Ohio but we need to build the pipeline of professionals who are coming into to this treatment and we need to educate patients about what palliative care is," he said.

Mr. Stephens said it's important for providers to consider how different palliative care can look in different parts of the state. While it typically includes the treating doctor, a pharmacist, social workers, spiritual leaders and others who surround the patient with support, that team could look different in rural areas than it would in cities with access to wide varieties of professionals.

"We're all very hopeful there's going to be movement on that this fall," he said.

The proposal hasn't yet been assigned to a committee, but Rep. LaTourette said it will probably go through the House Aging and Long-Term Care Committee.

"My hope is that shortly after we come back for the fall that we start moving quickly," she said.

Long-Awaited Federal Study To Protect Great Lakes From Asian Carp Released

A long-delayed federal plan to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes was released Monday after months of prodding from congressional delegates in Ohio and other states.

The report from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spells out \$275 million in proposals to upgrade the Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Illinois in order to shield the lakes from the invasive species.

Ideas in the report include electric barriers, flushing locks, water jets, and complex noise generation. If approved, the project has an estimated completion date of 2025, according to the report. Critics have argued the plan could impede commercial traffic in the region.

The 488-page report was originally slated for release in February, but was delayed by the Trump Administration. Democrats have contended that the decision to delay the report was political in nature. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 1, 2017)

"It is encouraging to see that the U.S. Army Corps' recommendations include serious measures to deal with this invasive species," U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo) said in a statement. "Now that we have real information on costs we can move on and receive input from stakeholders, whose livelihoods depend on us keeping the Asian carp out of the Lakes."

Both she and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland) earlier this year introduced standalone legislation that would have forced the Trump Administration to make the study public. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 23, 2017)

"We are now one step closer to taking action to protect our Great Lakes from Asian carp," Sen. Brown said, "and I look forward to working with Sen. Portman and my other Great Lakes colleagues to turn this report into concrete actions that will benefit our Lakes."

The discovery of an Asian carp in June just nine miles from Lake Michigan added new urgency to the matter. It also prompted state officials to enter the fray, with Attorney General Mike DeWine writing late last month to the Department of the Army and saying the delay "in the face of this immediate threat is unacceptable." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 30, 2017)

There will now be a 45-day public review period for the draft report, ending Sept. 21. Comments will be accepted online, by letter and at public meetings yet to be scheduled.

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) said the lakes and the local economies they support must be protected.

"The Great Lakes support a \$7 billion fishing industry and Lake Erie contributes more than \$10 billion to Ohio's tourism industry, both of which would be jeopardized if Asian Carp were allowed into the Great Lakes," he said. "It is important that the Corps remain on schedule to finalize the plan by January of 2019, and I look forward to working with stakeholders and the Corps to do just that."

Environmental groups praised the release, with the Alliance for the Great Lakes, the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council and several other groups issuing a joint statement.

"We look forward to reviewing the findings in detail and to continuing the conversation on this critical issue with elected officials and concerned citizens during the public comment period," the groups said. "The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must listen carefully to public input on the study and then move quickly from study to implementation of additional protection measures at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam, a logical choke point in the system."

The Ohio Conservation Federation and its counterparts from Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin issued a similar joint statement.

"After months of unnecessary delay, we are excited that the potential options for improving defenses against Asian carp at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam will see the light of day," they said. "There is still much work yet to be done in this process. We look forward to working towards securing stronger protections to keep Asian carp out of our Great Lakes."

Environmental Groups Question Rover Excuses For Fuel In Wetland Spills

The company behind the Rover Pipeline project told federal regulators it believes it's possible traces of diesel fuel found in wetland spills earlier this year were planted by "malicious" opponents.

But environmental groups say the company is attempting to divert attention from Rover's actions and that increased security around the spill sites - by both the company and state regulators who were investigating the spills - renders the idea of sabotage "farfetched."

It's the latest back and forth between Rover Pipeline LLC, its parent Energy Transfer Partners, and advocates urging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to halt construction of the 700-mile pipeline that has been at the center of controversy for months.

In its most recent filing (PDF) before FERC, the company for the first time agreed with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's assessment that diesel fuel was present in millions of gallons of drilling mud spilled into Ohio wetlands at several sites earlier this year. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 2, 2017)

But Rover stopped short of accepting the blame, saying it "has no evidence that the diesel was the result of a spill or failed containment" experienced during its horizontal drilling and construction activity.

"This data alone, however, does not demonstrate that diesel fluid (or other petroleum hydrocarbons) entered the slurry as part of the HDD process or that there was a widespread impact," the company wrote.

"Rover theorizes that these diesel concentrations could have been caused by an inadvertent and unreported spill or leak from equipment operating during the clean-

up...or it could have been the deliberate or malicious act of individuals opposed to the project," the company continued. "Given the extensive inspection and oversight at this and other sites along the project, it is difficult to imagine that this occurred from an unreported spill or leak."

Cheryl Johncox of the Sierra Club's Beyond Dirty Fuels Campaign rejected that claim. She said in an interview that OEPA testing revealed fuel traces at several different sites.

"It's very unlikely somebody trying to sabotage the project would know where those sampling locations were," she said. "The other thing of note is this occurred on private property...(and) they were very actively patrolling that spill site and keeping people off. It's very unlikely somebody was able to access that area in order to sabotage the project."

Heather Taylor-Miesle, executive director of the Ohio Environmental Council, said the company's claims are the latest demonstration of the company's "lack of respect for Ohioans and our environment."

"Claiming they were sabotaged or framed without any evidence whatsoever is merely another attempt for Rover to deflect blame and avoid owning up to the consequences of their actions," she said. "We are taught in kindergarten to clean up after ourselves, and Rover should remember this important childhood lesson."

Regardless of how the fuel entered the slurry, the company said it is "deeply troubled by any of these potential scenarios and has taken steps to address these possible sources."

Those steps include reiterating to employees and contractors that all construction must adhere to the FERC certificate and other spill prevention and response procedures. Additionally, it will remind workers that secondary containment must be used for equipment working in or near wetlands and bodies of water and prompt notification is required for spills of hazardous materials.

In the event an outside agent introduced fuel to the situation, the company said it has increased security to oversee the Tuscarawas site and has "increased scrutiny of all personnel entering and leaving all HDD sites."

The filing comes one week after Kelcy Warren, CEO of Energy Transfer Partners, which is Rover's parent company, told federal lawmakers he was "baffled" by criticism of the company and allegations of rule violations from regulators and congressional Democrats following the spills.

Tavares Bill Aimed At Gender Pay Gap; Schiavoni Targets Charter Overpayments; Renacci, Pillich Announce Endorsements...

Equal pay and charter school funding are the subjects of hot-button measures recently introduced by two Democratic lawmakers.

Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) is behind legislation (SB 174) she dubbed the "Fair and Acceptable Income Required Act."

"It is shameful that in this day and age women in Ohio make only 78 cents for every dollar made by a man. Without question, equal work deserves equal pay," she said in a release announcing the bill. "At a time when women are increasingly responsible for the economic security of their families, it is absolutely critical to ensure that they earn a wage commensurate with their work - and on par with a man's."

The bill would require employers to substantiate pay differences, prohibit retaliation against workers who discuss salaries with colleagues and bar wage discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"While the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 improved some laws that govern pay discrimination, more must be done to close the wage gap and increase the economic security of women," Sen. Tavares said. "Fair pay would help close the wage gap and increase women's economic security."

Charter Overpayments: A gubernatorial candidate meanwhile is touting a measure to require all money recovered from overpayments to charter schools to be returned to district from which it was deducted. It comes on the heels of the state's plans to claw back funding from the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow over inflated enrollment data.

Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) said his legislation is expected to be introduced this week.

"Ohio schools are struggling to manage after several years of cuts to their funding. It's only right that the state should return all money taken from these schools in error," he said. "This bill is simple: it creates a uniform rule that all money overpaid to charter schools is sent back to the affected school districts."

Endorsements Announced: Other gubernatorial candidates continue to rack up endorsements.

U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci (R-Alliance) announced the backing of Julie Prince in his bid to replace Gov. John Kasich. She directed Ohio operations and grassroots for Ted Cruz's 2016 presidential campaign.

"In the 2018 gubernatorial race, there is one clear choice for conservatives across Ohio, and that choice is Jim Renacci. Time and again Jim has demonstrated his unyielding commitment to the conservative reforms we need, but which entrenched Columbus insiders have failed to deliver," she said. "Jim is not afraid to take on the establishment or the career politicians who continue to pay lip service to conservatism while perpetuating the status quo."

Added Rep. Renacci: "In her position as the Grassroots and Operations Director for Ted Cruz's presidential campaign in Ohio, Julie played an instrumental role in advancing the

causes of conservatism and liberty - not just for our state, but for our nation as a whole. I am proud to serve as a voice for conservatives across Ohio in this critically important election, and I am committed to delivering the conservative agenda and reforms we so badly need as our state's next governor."

Meanwhile, former Rep. Connie Pillich announced that she has the support of the Cincinnati Building Trades in her Democratic primary contest.

"Connie Pillich is the proven fighter we need as our next governor. Born in the shadow of a steel mill, Connie knows what we face every day," Cincinnati Building Trades Executive Secretary Fred Lampe said. "She has an unrivaled record of standing up for working families, higher wages, and working to create good jobs. Connie has proven herself as the Democratic frontrunner in the race for governor and the Cincinnati Building Trades is proud to have her back."

Added Ms. Pillich: "I'm proud to be endorsed by the Cincinnati Building Trades because I'll never stop fighting for working families, good jobs, and better wages for workers. With the wind at our backs, our people-powered campaign is building more momentum everyday as we work to take Columbus back from the special interests."

Husted Appointment: Secretary of State Jon Husted announced the appointment of Marcella R. Bogenrife to the Madison County Board of Elections.

She was recommended for the post by the Madison County Republican Party Executive Committee.

Casino, Racino Revenue Up Big In July

The state's four casinos showed significant gains in revenue last month compared to June, and the racinos also saw a big uptick in what they took home.

The casinos brought in \$69.9 million in July, up from \$64.1 million the prior month and from \$66.1 million in July 2016, according to revenue reports released Monday by the Casino Control Commission.

Video lottery terminal revenue at the seven racinos totaled \$84.5 million for the first month of the fiscal year, up nearly \$6.5 million from where it was in June, the Ohio Lottery Commission reported.

Hollywood Columbus brought in the most money among casinos at \$18.9 million. That was up from \$17.7 million in June and just a bit above the \$18.6 million it brought in the previous July. The casino was highly dependent on slot machine revenue, with that accounting for \$13.5 million.

Hollywood Toledo also saw a big boost, rising to \$17.6 million from \$16.1 million the prior month. It was up more than \$1 million from \$16.5 million in July 2016. Like its sister

casino in Columbus, the Toledo location leaned heavily on slot machines, to the tune of \$14.8 million.

JACK Cleveland raked in \$16.9 million, up from \$15 million in June and \$15.5 million the previous July. The casino was the most balanced between slots and table games, with slots accounting for \$9.1 million and table games \$7.7 million.

JACK Cincinnati brought in \$16.7 million, up from \$15.4 million both in June and in July 2016. Slot machines accounted for \$10.7 million of the casino's take.

Racinos: Among the state's racinos, Hard Rock Racino-Northfield Park saw the largest gain from June to July, up \$2.7 million to \$22.3 million in revenue from VLT machines.

Scioto Downs was the second-biggest gainer, up \$1.25 million to \$14.25 million in July.

Hollywood Gaming Dayton Raceway was up \$643,130 to \$8.3 million, while JACK Thistledown was up \$605,814 to \$10.1 million.

Belterra Park's revenue was up \$529,680 over June's at \$7.4 million. Revenue at Miami Valley Gaming was up \$428,657 to \$12.4 million, and Hollywood Gaming Mahoning Valley Race Course gained \$300,155 to \$9.8 million.

Gongwer Statehouse Job Market Updated

Gongwer's Statehouse Job Market has been updated. The update is available on the Gongwer website.

Subscribers interested in posting job openings on Gongwer's employment board can send job descriptions and other information to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Wednesday, August 9

State Emergency Response Commission, 2855 West Dublin-Granville Rd., Columbus, 1:15 p.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Monday, August 21

OHROC Lake Erie Boat Cruise and Reception with Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton), and Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Fremont), Catawba Island Club, 4235 E. Beach Club Road, Port Clinton, 5:30 p.m., (5:30pm Arrive at Catawba Island Club; 6:00pm Depart on Burger Yacht "Gemini"; 8:00pm Reception. Sponsor: \$5,000; Host: \$2,500; Patron: \$1,000; Guest: \$500 to OHROC)

Sunday, August 27

Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) shooting fundraiser, Nagle Trucking, 4520 Moline-Martin Road, Walbridge, 1:30 p.m., (Expert: \$250; Sharpshooter: \$100 to Citizens for Gavarone)
Wednesday, September 13

Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Mansfield) fundraiser, Little Palace, 240 S. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Romanchuk for State Rep)
Friday, September 15

Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Tamarac Golf Course, 500 N. Stevick Road, Lima, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$1,000; Tee Sponsor: \$500; Foursome: \$400; Green Sponsor: \$350; Lunch Sponsor: \$250; Individual Golfer: \$125 to Cupp for State Representative Committee)
Wednesday, October 11

Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger)
Wednesday, November 1

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) and Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel and/or Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio)
Wednesday, November 29

Ohio House Republican Organizing Committee fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to OHROC)

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Senate Activity for Monday, August 7, 2017

INTRODUCED

SB 175 ■ **COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (Schiavoni, J.)** Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school. Am. 3314.52

SB 176 ■ **MUNICIPAL TAXES (Jordan, K.)** To prohibit municipal corporations from levying an income tax on nonresidents' compensation for personal services or on net profits from a sole proprietorship owned by a nonresident. Am. 709.023, 718.01, 718.02, 718.03, 718.04, 718.05, and 718.16 and to repeal sections 718.011 and 718.50

SENATE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS

Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation: Appoint Senator Joe Uecker and Senator Sean O'Brien

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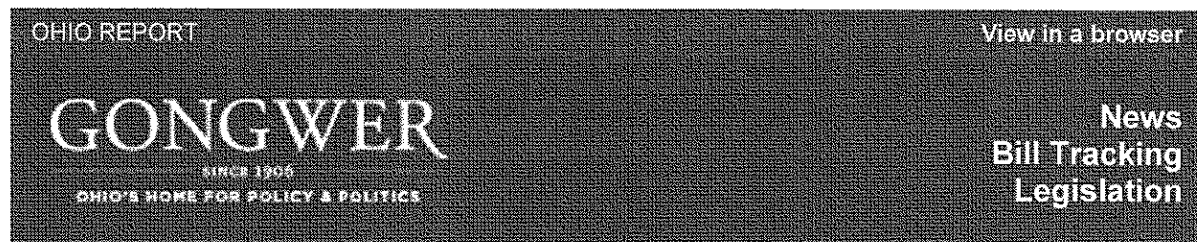
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OHIO REPORT MONDAY, AUGUST 7

Collective Bargaining Consultant Contract Gets Controlling Board Approval

Seitz Plans To Push For Passage Of Death Penalty Exemption Bill This Fall

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House Activity for Monday, August 7, 2017

INTRODUCED

HB 315 ■ **DAY DESIGNATION (Arndt, S.)** To designate October 6 as "S.M.A.R.T. Parent Day." En. 5.257

HB 316 ■ **PICNIC AREA NAMING (Arndt, S., Stein, D.)** To designate a picnic area in Kelleys Island State Park as the "Henry T. Beatty Memorial Picnic Area." Am. 1546.30

HB 317 ■ **TAX DEDUCTION (Young, R.)** To authorize, for six years, a personal income tax deduction for a physician based on the number of hours the physician provides uncompensated medical services through a hospital, free clinic, or nongovernmental medical organization. Am. 5747.01 and to enact section 5747.014

HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS

Finance: Remove Representative Faber

Finance Subcommittee on State Government and Agency Review: Remove Representative Faber.

Public Utilities: Remove Representative Faber; appoint Representative Stein

Aging and Long Term Care: Appoint Representative Brown.

Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security: Appoint Representative Brown.

Civil Justice: Remove Representative Sykes; appoint Representative Brown.

State and Local Government: Appoint Representative Brown.

Power Siting Board: Remove Representative Hagan; appoint Representative Carfagna

New African Immigrants Commission: Kefa Otiso and Beatrice Miringu

Ohio Public Works Commission: Dean Ringle

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Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, August 8

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

Board of Building Appeals, ODOT District Three Office, 906 Clark Ave., Ashland, 8:30 a.m.

Third Frontier Commission, Rev1 Ventures, 1275 Kinnear Rd., Columbus, 10 a.m.

House Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia, Netzley Room, Statehouse, Columbus, 1 p.m.

Event Planner

National Conference of State Legislatures Legislative Summit, Boston

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) and Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) fundraiser, Mike and Samantha Hartley residence, 403 South Court Street, Circleville, 6 p.m.,

(\$1,000 Chair | \$500 Sponsor | \$250 Host | \$100 Supporter | \$75 per Couple | \$50

Individual to Peterson for Good Government and Troy Balderson for State

Senator)

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Volume #86, Report #151 -- Monday, August 7, 2017

Collective Bargaining Consultant Contract Gets Controlling Board Approval

Controlling Board members on Monday approved a new contract for a Columbus law firm to do consulting work on collective bargaining issues after lawmakers asked about the job and procurement process for the contract.

Without objection, the board approved the \$480,000 contract between the Department of Administrative Services and Baker Hostetler, LLP. The firm will provide labor relations and collective bargaining consulting and negotiation services.

Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) asked if the state was developing the internal capacity to handle labor issues and contracts without having to pay outside help.

Jennifer Leymaster, chief financial officer for DAS, said negotiations for large contracts often require outside assistance.

"It is customary for us to seek outside consulting services when doing the negotiation for these major contracts, as I believe is customary for organizations of our size," she said.

Kristen Rankin, deputy director for the DAS Office of Collective Bargaining, said the work fluctuates year-to-year as different contracts come up for renewal.

She said the state has been working with Baker Hostetler since 2014 and the firm has a good understanding of the state's labor relations.

Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) asked about the increase in the value of the contract this year, up from about \$300,000 last year.

Ms. Rankin said the state is entering negotiations with its largest union this year, meaning there will be more work ahead.

The board also approved several contracts from the treasurer's office after Sen. Tavares asked for the reasoning behind waiving competitive selection.

Deputy Treasurer Seth Metcalf said all of the items were continuations of ongoing projects. In one case, the office did receive another bid, but it was significantly higher than the bid by the existing contract. That project involves custom-built software designed by the current contractor.

"We suspect that the additional bid was very high because the learning curve for a new provider would have been significant," he said.

The board approved a request for more than \$8.3 million over two years from DAS for a contract for postage funds. Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) asked if other firms, such as Stamps.com, might be able to offer the state better rates.

Ms. Leymaster said firms like Stamps.com might not be able to handle the volume of mail the state sends out, but that DAS would look into it.

The board accepted a transfer of \$2.2 million from the Emergency Management Agency into its emergency fund, repaying the final payment of the money used to reimburse states that sent law enforcement to help at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland last year. The EMA said it has received reimbursement from Cleveland for all of the 18 states that assisted.

A request for \$605,961 from the Department of Developmental Disabilities to improve the fire alarm system at Cambridge Developmental Center was deferred.

Other items approved by the board included: (Agenda)

- \$534,000 - Central State University - for a library structural repair and modernization project.
- \$3.2 million - Clark State Community College - for renovation of Rhodes Hall.
- \$2.4 million - Columbus State Community College - for the Culinary and Hospitality School building project.
- \$226,275 - Department of Health - to purchase cystic fibrosis test kits.
- \$374,400 - Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services - for a contract for forensic psychiatric services at Summit Behavioral Healthcare in Cincinnati.
- \$1.2 million - Department of Developmental Disabilities - to contract with various providers for early intervention hearing services for children.
- \$1.1 million - Department of Natural Resources - for a contract amendment to provide construction administration and material testing at Buckeye Lake Dam.
- \$5.3 million - ODNR - to contract for improvements at a variety of state parks.
- \$749,510 - Department of Rehabilitation and Correction - to replace the roof at the Corrections Training Academy in Orient.
- \$53.6 million - Department of Transportation - for contracts with 52 consulting firms for a variety of services.

- \$212,154 - Bureau of Workers' Compensation - to renew a contract for IT services analyzing business processes.

Seitz Plans To Push For Passage Of Death Penalty Exemption Bill This Fall

The sponsor of a bill to exempt the seriously mentally ill from the death penalty expects the measure to move in the fall.

The legislation (HB 81) would exempt from the death penalty those diagnosed with schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder or delusional disorder at the time a capital offense was committed.



Bill Seitz

"I'm raring and ready to go as soon as we get back to try and move this forward in the House," sponsoring Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) said in an interview.

The bill has had three hearings in the House Criminal Justice Committee. Rep. Seitz said he was ready to move the measure prior to lawmakers leaving town for summer vacations, but he was told to hold off.

"We were really ready to go at the end of session back a month ago, but they wanted to keep controversial things off the radar screen as we focused all of our attention on the conference committee process and budget overrides and things like that," he said.

Chairman Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) expressed uncertainty about the fate of the bill in the Senate Judiciary Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 4, 2017)

But Rep. Seitz said he is confident about the bill's prospects in the upper chamber.

"All I can tell Senator Bacon is that when I had the bill the last time in that chamber, there were 31 of 33 senators ready to vote for it. Maybe he hasn't started counting noses yet," he said, adding that the two opponents of the last version of the bill are now serving in the House.

The bill has run into stiff opposition from the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association. Executive Director John Murphy has said that current law already provides those suffering from mental illness with the opportunity to be deemed incompetent to stand trial or mount a not guilty by reasons of insanity defense. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 6, 2017)

Despite the opposition, Rep. Seitz does not believe the OPAA will be able to sink the bill.

"It's got an awful lot of support and the only people that have come out against it are the prosecutors and their reasoning doesn't satisfy me," he said. "They were opposed to it the last time on the same basis."

Given the state's recent resumption of the death penalty, Rep. Seitz believes the bill will gain even more traction. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 26, 2017)

"I think with all the recent furor over the resumption of executions in Ohio people ought to at least recognize this for progress in terms of narrowing the range of cases in which the death penalty may be imposed," he said.

The legislation is based off of one of several recommendations made by the Ohio Supreme Court's Joint Task Force to Review the Administration of Ohio's Death Penalty.

"The bottom line is this was a central recommendation of the death penalty task force," Rep. Seitz said.

Supporters Hope Palliative Care Measure Gains Traction After Recess

Legislation first offered last year and introduced again in June intends to increase awareness and access to palliative care for patients with serious health conditions.

The bill (HB 286), sponsored by Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chagrin Falls), would establish a state council to oversee palliative care and create programs to raise awareness and utilization of the approach.



Rep. LaTourette

It's a personal issue for the sponsor. Her father, former U.S. Rep. Steve LaTourette, received palliative care before his death last year from pancreatic cancer. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 7, 2017)

"I saw the dramatic difference that access to early palliative care had on his life and our lives," Rep. LaTourette said in an interview. "I want everybody in the state to be aware that palliative care is not just hospice care."

Rep. LaTourette first introduced the measure (HB603, 131st General Assembly) toward the end of the last General Assembly. It received a hearing before the House Health and Aging Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 26, 2016)

The new version of the bill retains almost all of that proposal's components but does not include provisions that would levy fees or fines on hospitals that don't comply, she said. That has eased some concerns from industry groups, she said.

The move toward expanding the reach of palliative care is a priority for advocacy groups such as the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, who included the practice on their annual report card for state cancer policies. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 4, 2017)

Jeff Stephens, ACS CAN's state government relations director for Ohio, said the group is also working on similar legislation at the federal level.

"It's a form of treatment that's been proven to increase health outcomes at a reduced overall health care cost. It works," he said.

The bill would create an interdisciplinary advisory council at the Department of Health and create a set of criteria to identify patients who are best suited to the care approach.

"We do a pretty OK job of offering it in Ohio but we need to build the pipeline of professionals who are coming into to this treatment and we need to educate patients about what palliative care is," he said.

Mr. Stephens said it's important for providers to consider how different palliative care can look in different parts of the state. While it typically includes the treating doctor, a pharmacist, social workers, spiritual leaders and others who surround the patient with support, that team could look different in rural areas than it would in cities with access to wide varieties of professionals.

"We're all very hopeful there's going to be movement on that this fall," he said.

The proposal hasn't yet been assigned to a committee, but Rep. LaTourette said it will probably go through the House Aging and Long-Term Care Committee.

"My hope is that shortly after we come back for the fall that we start moving quickly," she said.

Long-Awaited Federal Study To Protect Great Lakes From Asian Carp Released

A long-delayed federal plan to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes was released Monday after months of prodding from congressional delegates in Ohio and other states.

The report from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spells out \$275 million in proposals to upgrade the Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Illinois in order to shield the lakes from the invasive species.

Ideas in the report include electric barriers, flushing locks, water jets, and complex noise generation. If approved, the project has an estimated completion date of 2025, according to the report. Critics have argued the plan could impede commercial traffic in the region.

The 488-page report was originally slated for release in February, but was delayed by the Trump Administration. Democrats have contended that the decision to delay the report was political in nature. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 1, 2017)

"It is encouraging to see that the U.S. Army Corps' recommendations include serious measures to deal with this invasive species," U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo) said in a statement. "Now that we have real information on costs we can move on and receive input from stakeholders, whose livelihoods depend on us keeping the Asian carp out of the Lakes."

Both she and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland) earlier this year introduced standalone legislation that would have forced the Trump Administration to make the study public. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 23, 2017)

"We are now one step closer to taking action to protect our Great Lakes from Asian carp," Sen. Brown said, "and I look forward to working with Sen. Portman and my other Great Lakes colleagues to turn this report into concrete actions that will benefit our Lakes."

The discovery of an Asian carp in June just nine miles from Lake Michigan added new urgency to the matter. It also prompted state officials to enter the fray, with Attorney General Mike DeWine writing late last month to the Department of the Army and saying the delay "in the face of this immediate threat is unacceptable." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 30, 2017)

There will now be a 45-day public review period for the draft report, ending Sept. 21. Comments will be accepted online, by letter and at public meetings yet to be scheduled.

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) said the lakes and the local economies they support must be protected.

"The Great Lakes support a \$7 billion fishing industry and Lake Erie contributes more than \$10 billion to Ohio's tourism industry, both of which would be jeopardized if Asian Carp were allowed into the Great Lakes," he said. "It is important that the Corps remain on schedule to finalize the plan by January of 2019, and I look forward to working with stakeholders and the Corps to do just that."

Environmental groups praised the release, with the Alliance for the Great Lakes, the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council and several other groups issuing a joint statement.

"We look forward to reviewing the findings in detail and to continuing the conversation on this critical issue with elected officials and concerned citizens during the public comment period," the groups said. "The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must listen carefully to public input on the study and then move quickly from study to implementation of additional protection measures at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam, a logical choke point in the system."

The Ohio Conservation Federation and its counterparts from Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin issued a similar joint statement.

"After months of unnecessary delay, we are excited that the potential options for improving defenses against Asian carp at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam will see the light of day," they said. "There is still much work yet to be done in this process. We look forward to working towards securing stronger protections to keep Asian carp out of our Great Lakes."

Environmental Groups Question Rover Excuses For Fuel In Wetland Spills

The company behind the Rover Pipeline project told federal regulators it believes it's possible traces of diesel fuel found in wetland spills earlier this year were planted by "malicious" opponents.

But environmental groups say the company is attempting to divert attention from Rover's actions and that increased security around the spill sites - by both the company and state regulators who were investigating the spills - renders the idea of sabotage "farfetched."

It's the latest back and forth between Rover Pipeline LLC, its parent Energy Transfer Partners, and advocates urging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to halt construction of the 700-mile pipeline that has been at the center of controversy for months.

In its most recent filing (PDF) before FERC, the company for the first time agreed with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's assessment that diesel fuel was present in millions of gallons of drilling mud spilled into Ohio wetlands at several sites earlier this year. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 2, 2017)

But Rover stopped short of accepting the blame, saying it "has no evidence that the diesel was the result of a spill or failed containment" experienced during its horizontal drilling and construction activity.

"This data alone, however, does not demonstrate that diesel fluid (or other petroleum hydrocarbons) entered the slurry as part of the HDD process or that there was a widespread impact," the company wrote.

"Rover theorizes that these diesel concentrations could have been caused by an inadvertent and unreported spill or leak from equipment operating during the clean-

up...or it could have been the deliberate or malicious act of individuals opposed to the project," the company continued. "Given the extensive inspection and oversight at this and other sites along the project, it is difficult to imagine that this occurred from an unreported spill or leak."

Cheryl Johncox of the Sierra Club's Beyond Dirty Fuels Campaign rejected that claim. She said in an interview that OEPA testing revealed fuel traces at several different sites.

"It's very unlikely somebody trying to sabotage the project would know where those sampling locations were," she said. "The other thing of note is this occurred on private property...(and) they were very actively patrolling that spill site and keeping people off. It's very unlikely somebody was able to access that area in order to sabotage the project."

Heather Taylor-Miesle, executive director of the Ohio Environmental Council, said the company's claims are the latest demonstration of the company's "lack of respect for Ohioans and our environment."

"Claiming they were sabotaged or framed without any evidence whatsoever is merely another attempt for Rover to deflect blame and avoid owning up to the consequences of their actions," she said. "We are taught in kindergarten to clean up after ourselves, and Rover should remember this important childhood lesson."

Regardless of how the fuel entered the slurry, the company said it is "deeply troubled by any of these potential scenarios and has taken steps to address these possible sources."

Those steps include reiterating to employees and contractors that all construction must adhere to the FERC certificate and other spill prevention and response procedures. Additionally, it will remind workers that secondary containment must be used for equipment working in or near wetlands and bodies of water and prompt notification is required for spills of hazardous materials.

In the event an outside agent introduced fuel to the situation, the company said it has increased security to oversee the Tuscarawas site and has "increased scrutiny of all personnel entering and leaving all HDD sites."

The filing comes one week after Kelcy Warren, CEO of Energy Transfer Partners, which is Rover's parent company, told federal lawmakers he was "baffled" by criticism of the company and allegations of rule violations from regulators and congressional Democrats following the spills.

Tavares Bill Aimed At Gender Pay Gap; Schiavoni Targets Charter Overpayments; Renacci, Pillich Announce Endorsements...

Equal pay and charter school funding are the subjects of hot-button measures recently introduced by two Democratic lawmakers.

Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) is behind legislation (SB 174) she dubbed the "Fair and Acceptable Income Required Act."

"It is shameful that in this day and age women in Ohio make only 78 cents for every dollar made by a man. Without question, equal work deserves equal pay," she said in a release announcing the bill. "At a time when women are increasingly responsible for the economic security of their families, it is absolutely critical to ensure that they earn a wage commensurate with their work - and on par with a man's."

The bill would require employers to substantiate pay differences, prohibit retaliation against workers who discuss salaries with colleagues and bar wage discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"While the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 improved some laws that govern pay discrimination, more must be done to close the wage gap and increase the economic security of women," Sen. Tavares said. "Fair pay would help close the wage gap and increase women's economic security."

Charter Overpayments: A gubernatorial candidate meanwhile is touting a measure to require all money recovered from overpayments to charter schools to be returned to district from which it was deducted. It comes on the heels of the state's plans to claw back funding from the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow over inflated enrollment data.

Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) said his legislation is expected to be introduced this week.

"Ohio schools are struggling to manage after several years of cuts to their funding. It's only right that the state should return all money taken from these schools in error," he said. "This bill is simple: it creates a uniform rule that all money overpaid to charter schools is sent back to the affected school districts."

Endorsements Announced: Other gubernatorial candidates continue to rack up endorsements.

U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci (R-Alliance) announced the backing of Julie Prince in his bid to replace Gov. John Kasich. She directed Ohio operations and grassroots for Ted Cruz's 2016 presidential campaign.

"In the 2018 gubernatorial race, there is one clear choice for conservatives across Ohio, and that choice is Jim Renacci. Time and again Jim has demonstrated his unyielding commitment to the conservative reforms we need, but which entrenched Columbus insiders have failed to deliver," she said. "Jim is not afraid to take on the establishment or the career politicians who continue to pay lip service to conservatism while perpetuating the status quo."

Added Rep. Renacci: "In her position as the Grassroots and Operations Director for Ted Cruz's presidential campaign in Ohio, Julie played an instrumental role in advancing the

causes of conservatism and liberty - not just for our state, but for our nation as a whole. I am proud to serve as a voice for conservatives across Ohio in this critically important election, and I am committed to delivering the conservative agenda and reforms we so badly need as our state's next governor."

Meanwhile, former Rep. Connie Pillich announced that she has the support of the Cincinnati Building Trades in her Democratic primary contest.

"Connie Pillich is the proven fighter we need as our next governor. Born in the shadow of a steel mill, Connie knows what we face every day," Cincinnati Building Trades Executive Secretary Fred Lampe said. "She has an unrivaled record of standing up for working families, higher wages, and working to create good jobs. Connie has proven herself as the Democratic frontrunner in the race for governor and the Cincinnati Building Trades is proud to have her back."

Added Ms. Pillich: "I'm proud to be endorsed by the Cincinnati Building Trades because I'll never stop fighting for working families, good jobs, and better wages for workers. With the wind at our backs, our people-powered campaign is building more momentum everyday as we work to take Columbus back from the special interests."

Husted Appointment: Secretary of State Jon Husted announced the appointment of Marcella R. Bogenrife to the Madison County Board of Elections.

She was recommended for the post by the Madison County Republican Party Executive Committee.

Casino, Racino Revenue Up Big In July

The state's four casinos showed significant gains in revenue last month compared to June, and the racinos also saw a big uptick in what they took home.

The casinos brought in \$69.9 million in July, up from \$64.1 million the prior month and from \$66.1 million in July 2016, according to revenue reports released Monday by the Casino Control Commission.

Video lottery terminal revenue at the seven racinos totaled \$84.5 million for the first month of the fiscal year, up nearly \$6.5 million from where it was in June, the Ohio Lottery Commission reported.

Hollywood Columbus brought in the most money among casinos at \$18.9 million. That was up from \$17.7 million in June and just a bit above the \$18.6 million it brought in the previous July. The casino was highly dependent on slot machine revenue, with that accounting for \$13.5 million.

Hollywood Toledo also saw a big boost, rising to \$17.6 million from \$16.1 million the prior month. It was up more than \$1 million from \$16.5 million in July 2016. Like its sister

casino in Columbus, the Toledo location leaned heavily on slot machines, to the tune of \$14.8 million.

JACK Cleveland raked in \$16.9 million, up from \$15 million in June and \$15.5 million the previous July. The casino was the most balanced between slots and table games, with slots accounting for \$9.1 million and table games \$7.7 million.

JACK Cincinnati brought in \$16.7 million, up from \$15.4 million both in June and in July 2016. Slot machines accounted for \$10.7 million of the casino's take.

Racinos: Among the state's racinos, Hard Rock Racino-Northfield Park saw the largest gain from June to July, up \$2.7 million to \$22.3 million in revenue from VLT machines.

Scioto Downs was the second-biggest gainer, up \$1.25 million to \$14.25 million in July.

Hollywood Gaming Dayton Raceway was up \$643,130 to \$8.3 million, while JACK Thistledown was up \$605,814 to \$10.1 million.

Belterra Park's revenue was up \$529,680 over June's at \$7.4 million. Revenue at Miami Valley Gaming was up \$428,657 to \$12.4 million, and Hollywood Gaming Mahoning Valley Race Course gained \$300,155 to \$9.8 million.

Gongwer Statehouse Job Market Updated

Gongwer's Statehouse Job Market has been updated. The update is available on the Gongwer website.

Subscribers interested in posting job openings on Gongwer's employment board can send job descriptions and other information to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Wednesday, August 9

State Emergency Response Commission, 2855 West Dublin-Granville Rd., Columbus, 1:15 p.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Monday, August 21

OHROC Lake Erie Boat Cruise and Reception with Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton), and Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Fremont), Catawba Island Club, 4235 E. Beach Club Road, Port Clinton, 5:30 p.m., (5:30pm Arrive at Catawba Island Club; 6:00pm Depart on Burger Yacht "Gemini"; 8:00pm Reception. Sponsor: \$5,000; Host: \$2,500; Patron: \$1,000; Guest: \$500 to OHROC)

Sunday, August 27

Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) shooting fundraiser, Nagle Trucking, 4520 Moline-Martin Road, Walbridge, 1:30 p.m., (Expert: \$250; Sharpshooter: \$100 to Citizens for Gavarone)
Wednesday, September 13

Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Mansfield) fundraiser, Little Palace, 240 S. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Romanchuk for State Rep)
Friday, September 15

Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Tamarac Golf Course, 500 N. Stevick Road, Lima, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$1,000; Tee Sponsor: \$500; Foursome: \$400; Green Sponsor: \$350; Lunch Sponsor: \$250; Individual Golfer: \$125 to Cupp for State Representative Committee)
Wednesday, October 11

Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger)
Wednesday, November 1

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) and Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel and/or Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio)
Wednesday, November 29

Ohio House Republican Organizing Committee fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to OHROC)

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Senate Activity for Monday, August 7, 2017

INTRODUCED

SB 175 ■ **COMMUNITY SCHOOLS** (Schiavoni, J.) Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school. Am. 3314.52

SB 176 ■ **MUNICIPAL TAXES** (Jordan, K.) To prohibit municipal corporations from levying an income tax on nonresidents' compensation for personal services or on net profits from a sole proprietorship owned by a nonresident. Am. 709.023, 718.01, 718.02, 718.03, 718.04, 718.05, and 718.16 and to repeal sections 718.011 and 718.50

SENATE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS

Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation: Appoint Senator Joe Uecker and Senator Sean O'Brien

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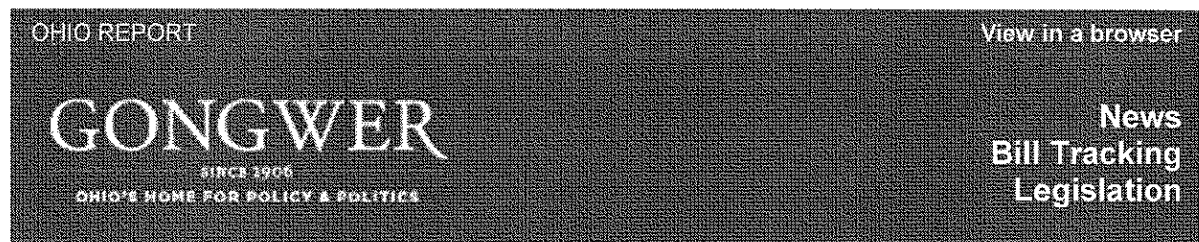
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OHIO REPORT FRIDAY, AUGUST 18

Reducing Regulations Among Legislative Priorities For Fall

High Court Sets Oral Arguments In Abortion Cases

Few Districts Meet Recommendation To Delay Start Of School Day

Ohio Unemployment Rate Moves Up To 5.2%

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Volume #86, Report #160 -- Friday, August 18, 2017

Reducing Regulations Among Legislative Priorities For Fall

With the biennial budget, veto overrides notwithstanding, in the rearview mirror, Senate President Larry Obhof hopes his chamber will work on legislation designed to make life easier for businesses.

One way the Medina Republican plans to do that is not by adding new laws, but by removing or simplifying old ones.

"We'll focus on getting government red tape and regulation out of the way and hopefully continue to build our economy and build off the improvements we've made the last few years," Sen. Obhof said this week.



Sen. Obhof

One of the priorities for the Senate Republicans leader includes finding bits of regulation that are burdensome for business and aren't working the way they're supposed to. He said he wanted each member of his caucus to find examples of failing regulation and work to fix them, whether by eliminating language or streamlining it.

"We talk a lot on the campaign trail, both parties do, about getting red tape and regulations out of the way," he said. "When you get to work, people start to pass new laws and regulations."

"We ought to all go out and find one example of something that's not working right and get rid of it," he continued. "They don't have to be big things, necessarily, but the more things like that that we do, you're slowly but surely making it easier for some small business owners."

Even if the change doesn't affect every Ohioan, he said, it could be significant for the few it does affect.

"I think we're going to be pretty serious this fall about trying to get rid of parts of the Ohio Revised Code, scale them back, make them easier to understand, easier to read, removing some of the hurdles government has put in the way of our job creators," he said.

Other priorities for the fall include economic development, the opioid crisis and workforce development, he said.

The Senate will be in session Tuesday, with the agenda expected to focus heavily on budget veto overrides. More override votes are possible in September, Sen. Obhof said.

The chamber will also see some committee action Tuesday, including the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, which will hear a bill (SB 164) to ban abortions based on a Down syndrome diagnosis.

On the House side, the post-budget plan is still in the works, said Brad Miller, a spokesman for Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville).

"Legislative priorities for the fall are still under consideration and will be the product of conversations and input between the Speaker and members of the caucus," Mr. Miller said in an email.

Some of the House's work could stem from the speaker's task forces, some of which have begun their work, including one on education and poverty (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 17, 2017) and another on Alzheimer's and dementia (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 8, 2017).

High Court Sets Oral Arguments In Abortion Cases

The state's highest court will hear two high-profile abortion cases in September, including one that has triggered calls for a justice's recusal.

Both cases stem from abortion-related provisions in the 2014-15 state budget (HB59 130th General Assembly).

The first case, set to be heard on Sept. 12, was brought to the high court by the Department of Health, which has defended the constitutionality of restrictions imposed on a Toledo abortion clinic. (Docket)

The case is the result of a 2014 department decision to shutter the city's last abortion clinic, Capital Care Network of Toledo, after it determined a patient transfer agreement it had inked with an Ann Arbor hospital ran afoul of state law because the facility was not "local."

However, both the Lucas County Common Pleas Court and the Sixth District Court of Appeals sided with the clinic, which has remained open.

ODH argues that the decision to shutter the clinic was lawful, the one-subject rule was not violated by placing the requirement in the budget, the clinic did not raise an "undue burden" challenge and the ambulatory requirement is constitutional.

The "undue burden" standard, which was used by the lower courts to strike down the requirement, was created by the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*.

However, ODH argues that the high court should not view the case through that lens because the clinic did not raise the issue.

"The court should vacate the undue burden holding and set the issue aside, as the clinic never raised such a challenge. And as part of not raising it as a legal issue, the clinic also never presented any factual evidence to meet its burden to overcome the law," ODH wrote in a court filing.

"Vacating the holding still allows this clinic or any other abortion clinic to raise an undue burden challenge in a separate case, and indeed, at least two clinics are doing so in a federal case."

Among the clinic's arguments are that the 2013 budget violated the single-subject rule, that the provision amounts to an undue burden and that it is unconstitutional.

"The three transfer agreement provisions were introduced late in the legislative process as riders to the budget bill with little or no opportunity for public debate. At the end of the state budget process Ohio legislators buried controversial anti-abortion provisions in the several thousand pages of a budget bill that was sure to pass," the brief reads.

"The written transfer agreement provisions, which are inherently controversial and of significant constitutional import, were not debated and approved during a fair and open legislative process. HB59 frustrates the single-subject rule's purpose of preventing logrolling and ensuring 'a more orderly and fair legislative process.'"

The case already stirred controversy after Justice Sharon Kennedy spoke at a Greater Toledo Right to Life event in March. That led NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio to unsuccessfully call on her to recuse herself in the case.

This week, Capital Care attorney Jennifer Branch made an official request for Justice Kennedy's recusal in a filing with the court.

"Since this court accepted jurisdiction in this case, Justice Kennedy's impartiality in deciding this case involving an abortion provider has been reasonably questioned by various Ohioans due to her connections to anti-abortion and pro-life organizations," the attorney wrote.

ProgressOhio also filed an ethics complaint against Justice Kennedy that was recently dismissed.

The second case, slated for oral arguments on Sept. 26, was also brought forward by the state after two lower courts found a Cleveland-based clinic had standing to sue over several abortion-related provisions in the budget bill. (Docket)

Along with the transfer agreement provision, Preterm-Cleveland has also taken issue with a ban on public hospitals from entering into those agreements and a requirement that doctors inform pregnant women about a detectable heartbeat.

"Preterm's change of conduct to avoid running afoul of these new requirements constitutes injury-in-fact for standing purposes, traceable to the enactment of HB59," its brief reads. "Its requested relief - an order declaring that HB59 violates the one-subject rule and severing and enjoining the provisions it has shown create disunity - will redress Preterm's injury and cure the identified constitutional defect."

The state, however, argues that the abortion clinic does not have standing to sue because it has not been able to demonstrate that it has been injured by the budget provisions.

"Ohio's Constitution allows courts to hear only justiciable controversies involving parties with standing, so relaxing the rules is unconstitutional. Applying the rules here is straightforward: Preterm must show standing as to each provision it challenges, and it fails on all counts," the state's brief reads.

Few Districts Meet Recommendation To Delay Start Of School Day

Most students heading back to school over the next few weeks won't be reporting to first period any later than in past years, despite district attempts to accommodate research that shows later start times can be beneficial to student health.

Various districts throughout the state report studying later start times in the last few years, but a recent accounting of states where schools have made changes doesn't include Ohio.

Schools in at least 19 states delayed starting bell times for the new academic year, according to a Start School Later report. They include a handful of schools in the surrounding states of Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Indiana.

"Every year we see more and more schools delaying bell times to improve student sleep, health, and learning," Start School Later Executive Director Terra Ziporyn Snider said. "Not all of them will be starting middle and high schools at 8:30 or later, as health professionals recommend, but they are moving to schedules that are healthier and safer for many more students."

The American Academy of Pediatrics, National PTA, American Medical Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Association of School Nurses, and the Society of Pediatric Nurses are among the groups backing later start times.

Although Ohio doesn't keep track of when districts are starting the day, Start School Later has determined that about 7:30 a.m. is the most common time for middle and high school students to head to first period. The national average is 7:59 a.m., according to the CDC.

Those times conflict with research that shows students, particularly teens, get their best sleep between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m.

Stacy Simera, a spokeswoman for Start School Later, said students who lack sleep are more likely to be obese, have trouble focusing in school, suffer sports injuries, be involved in car accidents, and become addicted to drugs, among other issues.

The connection between additional sleep for teens and improved health and academic outcomes has caught the attention of district leaders, but resulting changes to bell schedules in Ohio have been few and far between. Districts often point to increased costs as the reason for maintaining the status quo.

Olentangy Local School District, which is the seventh largest district the state, is among those that studied the possibility of later start times over the last few years, but chose not to move forward with them. It announced over the summer that changes would require purchasing an additional 141 school buses at a cost of \$12.5 million and adding \$7.8 million in annual operating costs.

Like others who've looked into making moves, the district also determined that parents of elementary students don't support earlier start times for their students so that later middle and high school times can be accommodated.

Bus schedules and concerns about child care "are two of the principal challenges in terms of trying to move the start times," said Tom Ash, director of governmental relations for the Buckeye Association of School Administrators.

"You have districts that, in order to economize (busing), have what are known as double, triple and even quadruple runs, so they might even be serving two, three or four schools with kids of different ages," he said. "So that becomes an issue."

Mr. Ash said districts aren't dismissing the research on earlier start times, they're just simply running into roadblocks to implement them.

There are districts that have modified start times without increased costs, though, Ms. Simera contended. If there are costs, she said that they shouldn't be a deal breaker.

"Not only can every school afford healthy start times, schools can no longer afford not to. As an Ohio taxpayer and mental health clinician, it concerns me that we are ignoring such low-hanging fruit in fighting two Ohio-specific epidemics: obesity and substance abuse - both of which are correlated with chronic deficient sleep," she said.

"While we know there are many factors involved in obesity and substance abuse, we should certainly address one of the known factors that we can greatly influence - namely healthy sleep."

According to Start School Later, districts that have pushed back start times without incurring additional costs include Hudson, Dublin, Kenston, and Perrysburg schools.

Westlake and Parma schools also pushed back start times when they eliminated busing for high school students.

Ohio Unemployment Rate Moves Up To 5.2%

The biggest increases occurred in leisure and hospitality (+5,200), local government (+3,900) and financial activities (+1,200) sectors. July's biggest losses were in goods-producing industries (-2,700) and business services (-2,400).

Over the last 12 months, Ohio added 47,500 jobs, led by private service providers (37,700) and construction (5,900), ODJFS reported. The larger drops occurred in trade, transportation, and utilities (-4,900) and durable goods manufacturing (-1,800).

Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive vice president at the Buckeye Institute, said that along with the labor market dip, Ohioans stopped looking for work as labor force participation fell to national levels at 62.9%.

"In addition, private sector job opportunities continued the stream of bad news, with 2,500 fewer private sector jobs in July compared to June," he said.

"Overall, the Ohio July jobs report is a sober one," Mr. Hederman said. "While one month of data can be a statistical anomaly, policymakers should begin considering measures to increase economic opportunities in Ohio's private sector."

Policy Matters Ohio observed that without the growth in public sector jobs, the state would have lost positions last month. The group reiterated its criticisms of GOP tax policies in recent years.

"State tax giveaways to corporations and the wealthy have not produced the promised job growth. Instead, we have lost the revenue we need to invest in policies like need-based college financial aid that help build the middle class," PMO researcher Hannah Halbert said. "Federal policymakers would be well-served by studying Ohio's performance before implementing tax changes that overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest in the nation."

Roegner Announces Senate Bid; Buckeye Institute Opines On Potential Veto Overrides...

Rep. Kristina Roegner announced her intent to run for the Senate seat currently occupied by term-limited Sen. Frank LaRose.

The Hudson Republican, who is term limited in the House, said her goals if elected to the Senate would be much the same as her priorities in her current seat representing the 37th House District.

"It would absolutely be the same as it's been in the House," she said. "Continue to help set a stage that's inviting to businesses in Ohio and that includes regulatory reform which I've done a lot of in individual industries."

Making the tax climate more competitive with other states by lowering taxes and strengthening the education system would also be priorities, the representative said. So too would be legislation like her pending cosmetology bill (HB 189) which she said would "make it easier and smoother for people to get jobs and not jump through so many hurdles in government."

"I'm going to continue the work we've started and continue that onto the Senate," she said. "I want to make sure government doesn't waste taxpayer dollars. If we can spend taxpayer dollars smarter and get more for it that's what we need to do."

The 27th Senate District encompasses all of Wayne County and parts of Summit and Stark. Other incumbent House members whose districts align with that district include term-limited Rep. Marilyn Slaby and freshman Rep. Scott Wiggam.

Rep. Roegner reported receiving \$78,000 since January in her recent semiannual report, leaving her with about \$78,700 in cash on hand.

Veto Overrides: The Buckeye Institute is weighing in on several outstanding budget veto overrides the Senate may take up next week.

Senators are expected to return Tuesday to consider some of the 11 overrides the House approved in July. How many overrides and which specifically the chamber will choose to take up isn't clear. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 16, 2017)

Among overrides the Institute is urging senators to approve are the governor's vetoes of the Healthy Ohio waiver and of language creating legislative oversight of Medicaid spending increases.

But the group is asking senators to let stand the governor's veto on the Medicaid managed care sales tax replacement plan.

"We agree with Gov. Kasich's veto of the proposed replacement for local Medicaid sales tax revenues and we were disappointed that the Ohio House overrode the governor's veto," said Greg Lawson, an institute research fellow. "This proposal is a tax on insurance plans and as with most government taxes, it is highly unlikely that this new tax will be 'temporary.' It is time for local governments to go to their voters and convince them of the need to raise local taxes for local services rather than blaming Columbus for their inability to spend wisely."

Issue 2: Proponents of the controversial Issue 2 - also known as the "Drug Price Relief Act" - praised ballot language approved by the Ballot Board Thursday.

Yes on Issue 2 and its counterpart, Ohioans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue, negotiated compromise ballot language that the board then signed off on with little discussion. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 17, 2017)

Both sides said the language presented an accurate description of the November ballot issue, which would prohibit the state from purchasing prescription drugs for prices beyond what the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs pays.

"Voters in Ohio are well-informed, smart and angry at the greedy drug companies that have been price-gouging the sick and suffering, and putting profits before patients," said Dennis Willard, a spokesman for the proponents. "The language is simple and straightforward just like our plan to lower drug prices for 4 million Ohioans and save taxpayers \$400 million a year."

Opponents claim the statute, if adopted by voters, would actually drive the cost of drugs higher.

OSU Study: \$152M In Lost Property Value Thanks To Algal Blooms...

Harmful algal blooms in Ohio have cost homeowners \$152 million in lost property value over the last six years, according to researchers.

That figure comes from a new Ohio State University study that examined the financial impacts of blooms in Buckeye Lake and Grand Lake St. Marys. A second study quantified the financial impact of blooms to sport fishing revenue generated by Lake Erie.

OSU bills the reports, published respectively in *Ecological Economics* and the *Journal of Environmental Management* as the first of their kind to put a dollar figure on the impact of algae. Researchers said they hope the studies will equip lawmakers with new information to create adequate algae prevention and cleanup resources.

"Our biggest takeaway is that efforts to prevent and mitigate algal blooms have real, tangible benefits for Ohioans, including property values," said Allen Klaiber, associate professor of agricultural, environmental and development economics at OSU.

The first study examines property values in the two interior lakes, finding that total values fell \$152 million from 2009-2015. Sales prices for homes within one-third of a mile from the lake fell 11-17% while adjacent homes saw prices dropping more than 22%, the report found.

In Buckeye Lake the drop was more severe, with the loss of \$101 million in home sales over six years. Grand Lake St. Marys saw a \$51 million loss.

Regarding Lake Erie, which fuels a \$1.7 billion tourism industry, simulations showed a "moderate" bloom would result in a 10-13% decrease in fishing license sales within 12 miles of the lake.

A severe bloom, akin to what occurred in 2011, would lead to 3,600 fewer licenses sold and as much as \$5.6 million in lost revenue in a single summer, the researchers determined.

Governor Appointment Reaction: The Ohio Environmental Council praised Gov. John Kasich's recent appointment of Sarah Spence to the Public Benefits Advisory Board. Ms. Spence is OEC's director of government affairs and was appointed this week.

"The board works with the director of the development services agency to ensure energy services are provided to low-income consumers in Ohio in an affordable manner," said Aryeh Alex, the OEC's vice president of public affairs. "Sarah is the right person for the job, and will add a strong environmental voice to the governor's administration."

Rover: A cease-and-desist order from the government of West Virginia was recently lifted, clearing the Rover Pipeline project to continue. That's over the objections of environmental groups who argue the project is harming the environment.

Meanwhile, a new *Bloomberg* analysis determined that the Rover project has set a new record for environmental violations. The publication determined the project, since its approval in February, has racked up more violations than any other major interstate natural gas pipeline built in the last two years.

Rover filings showed 104 negative inspection reports, according to *Bloomberg*. The next closest was the Williams' Virginia Southside Expansion which reported 26 violations.

To be fair, the 710-mile Rover is a longer pipeline than other projects included in the analysis. Still, the next longest - the 515-mile Enbridge Sabal Trail - reported 18 violations.

Energy Transfer Partners, the company behind the project, said it is working with regulatory agencies at all levels to meet safety and environmental regulations. But friction continues between the company, opponents and regulatory agencies in Ohio and beyond. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 7, 2017)

Report Links STEM Skills, Quality Pre-K; President Approves GI Bill Expansion...

Business and military leaders are calling on state leaders to focus on early childhood education to ensure students are better prepared to enter the future workforce.

They joined Council for Strong America this week to release a new report highlighting the correlation between high-quality Pre-K and STEM skills.

The analysis also details projections for STEM workforce growth - an area that military and tech business stakeholders said during a Dayton press conference is a major concern. Health and computer technology industries are expected to grow by as much as 37% nationwide in the coming years, they said.

Currently, 65% of eight graders aren't proficient in math and 60% aren't proficient in science, the report shows. About one-third of college students, meanwhile, require remediation in math or English.

"As a result, employers - both in the private sector and the military - are struggling to find the STEM skilled workforce they need," the authors of the report wrote. "That is why business and military leaders in Ohio are calling on policymakers to invest more in high-quality early education where STEM skills take root."

According to the report, research shows that individuals with early exposure to math have improved abilities in the subject area later on and that early learning supports cognitive abilities as well as social and emotional skills that are beneficial in STEM career fields.

"The young people we will seek to recruit for the military, postsecondary education, and private sector jobs in less than 15 years should be entering pre-K today," former Adjutant General Deborah Ashenhurst said in a statement. "A greater investment in high-quality pre-K will have lasting impact for our children, for Ohio, and for our nation."

GI Bill: The president this week signed bipartisan legislation to expand education opportunities to post-9/11 veterans and restore GI Bill benefits to those who attended now-defunct technical colleges.

The bill removes a 15-year time limit on the benefits, allowing veterans and their dependents to use them for life. Among other things, it also extends eligibility for reservists, provides full benefits for Purple Heart recipients and increases GI Bill payments by \$2,300 per year for veterans with less than 12 months of active service.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland), who helped draft the measure, applauded its enactment.

In particular, he pushed for provisions that restore benefits to veterans who attended shuttered career technical colleges and alert veterans to schools offering priority enrollment

"Ohio veterans deserve better than to have the rug pulled out from under them by for-profit colleges," Sen. Brown said in a statement. "This bill is an important step towards rectifying the fraudulent practices of these schools and restoring and expanding the GI benefits our veterans have earned."

The measure also expands eligibility for the Department of Veterans Affairs' Yellow Ribbon Program to spouses and children of service members who died in combat. The program that helps students avoid out-of-pocket college costs above their GI Bill benefits is currently available only to veterans and spouses and children of service members.

Insurance: An insurance checklist for college students and their parents is now available from the Department of Insurance.

The checklist details insurance options for illness and injury, dental and eye care, personal protections and liability, renters and vehicles.

"Life away from home is a great opportunity for young adults to learn and grow, but it also presents considerations and challenges," ODI Director Jillian Froment said. "It is important that students and parents conduct an insurance review and consider including an insurance agent in the process."

Survey: The Ohio Department of Education is seeking input on proposed updates to Ohio's model curriculum for English and math in grades K-12. An online survey will be open through Sept. 13.

The model curriculum, which is set to go before the State Board of Education for approval this fall, will serve as a guide for teachers to help them better understand the knowledge and skills required under Ohio's Learning Standards - the basis for state tests.

Agency Briefs: RFP Issued For Marijuana Monitoring System; AG; SOS; EPA; BWC; MHAS; DNR

The state's Medical Marijuana Control Program is seeking a contractor for a system to monitor video surveillance at growers, processors and dispensaries.

The Department of Commerce issued the request for proposals this week as the program's rules, which cleared the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review at the end of July, were officially filed.

The rules go into effect Sept. 8. They cleared JCARR after a nearly yearlong development process that began following the program's enabling legislation, which went into effect last fall. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 31, 2017)

The RFP for the video management system requires one that can accept feeds from any camera operator and allow the state to see inside facilities at any time.

"Given an initial camera population of over 1,000 cameras across an Ohio medical marijuana entity facility population of 100+ facilities, the State requires an efficient means of monitoring camera operational status as well as an efficient path for identifying a particular camera at a particular facility for real-time camera viewing," the state said in its description.

Attorney General: Mike DeWine and attorneys general from 49 other states and territories urged Congress to amend the Communications Decency Act of 1996 to clarify that states and local governments can investigate and prosecute facilitators of child sex trafficking wherever they operate, including online.

"The proposed amended language to the Communications Decency Act will help to ensure that citizens and children are effectively protected throughout the entire country,

in all courts," Attorney General DeWine said in a statement. "The intention of the Communications Decency Act is to protect children from indecent material online. It was never intended to place facilitators of child sex trafficking outside the reach of law enforcement."

Courts have interpreted the current language to allow only federal authorities to take action against companies that facilitate sex trafficking. The AGs urged in their letter for the law to be clarified.

Secretary of State: Jon Husted announced that all filings required to start or maintain a business in Ohio can now be submitted online. Owners can also submit all Uniform Commercial Code statements and certified search requests through the web, he said.

"Since day one, our office has committed itself to working on behalf of job creators and entrepreneurs to make it easier to start and maintain a business in Ohio," Secretary Husted said in a statement. "By improving the way our office does business, we are helping companies cut costs, save time, and reduce administrative burden so they can focus on providing quality services and products, as well as create jobs."

The secretary's office also announced that 8,800 new entities filed to do business in the state in July, up 1,279 compared to the previous July. A total of 71,979 entities have filed in Ohio this year.

Ohio EPA: The agency will hold a public hearing next week to receive comments on proposed water quality standards, including standards covering pesticides, dredged material and E. coli.

The hearing will begin at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, in the Ohio EPA Conference Center at 50 West Town Street in Columbus.

Written comments can be sent to Rules Coordinator, Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049, or emailed to dsw_rulecomments@epa.ohio.gov, through Aug. 23.

Workers' Compensation: The bureau announced that seven employers and injured workers who attempted to defraud the agency were convicted in July. The BWC's special investigations department has totaled 90 convictions so far this year.

"Workers' compensation fraud raises the cost of the system for everyone involved," said SID Director Jim Wernecke. "I hope these latest convictions serve as a reminder to those attempting to steal from BWC: We have investigators all over the state. We will find you, bring you to justice and make you repay the funds you illicitly acquired."

Mental Health and Addiction Services: The department said it is conducting a needs assessment with treatment providers as part of activities connected to the federal 21st Century CURES Act. The department is collecting information on what providers are doing and what needs they have for treating people with opioid-related disorders.

The assessment runs through Sept. 8. Providers who did not receive invitations can contact Laura Potts at laura.potts@mha.ohio.gov.

Natural Resources: The department announced it will hold special deer hunts at six state nature preserves across the state. Drawings will be held for the hunts, and entries cost \$5.

Governor's Appointments

Ohio University Board of Trustees: Stephen P. Casciani of Delaware (Delaware Co.) for a term beginning Aug. 18 and ending May 13, 2026.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, August 22

Public Facilities Commission, 35th Fl., 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, 2 p.m.

Thursday, August 24

BWC Board of Directors, Rm. 3, Level 2, 30 W. Spring St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m. (The Investment Committee will meet 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.; the Actuarial Committee 10:30 a.m. to noon; the Medical Services & Safety Committee 1 to 2 p.m.; the Governance Committee 2 to 2:30 p.m.; and the Audit Committee 2:30 to 4 p.m. The Actuarial, Governance and Audit Committee meetings may begin earlier if the preceding meeting adjourns earlier than scheduled.)

Friday, August 25

BWC Board of Directors, Rm. 3, Level 2, 30 W. Spring St., Columbus, 8 a.m.

Monday, August 28

Southern Ohio Agricultural & Community Development Foundation, 100 S. High St., Hillsboro, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 13

Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board, Suite 1500, 50 W. Broad St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

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Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, August 19- Monday, August 21

Legislative Committees

Monday, June 4

~~Canceled:~~ Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review ~~(Committee Record)~~ ~~(Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 121, 1:30 p.m.~~

Agency Calendar

Monday, August 21

Controlling Board, North Hearing Rm., Senate Bldg., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Saturday, August 19

Ohio Democratic Women's Caucus Luncheon, Hilton Columbus Downtown, 401 N High St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Keynote Speaker is Kathleen Sebelius. For more information contact Rachel Rossi (rachel@ohiodems.org))

Monday, August 21

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Urbana Country Club, 4761 US-36, Urbana, (9:00 am Registration | 10:00 am Shotgun Start | Lunch at the turn on the go | 2:30 pm Short Program. \$1,000 Tournament Sponsor; \$600 Eagle Sponsor; \$200 Hole Sponsor; \$100 Golfer)

OHROC Lake Erie Boat Cruise and Reception with Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton), and Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Fremont), Catawba Island Club, 4235 E. Beach Club Road, Port Clinton, 5:30 p.m., (5:30pm Arrive at Catawba Island Club; 6:00pm Depart on Burger Yacht "Gemini"; 8:00pm Reception. Sponsor: \$5,000; Host: \$2,500; Patron: \$1,000; Guest: \$500 to OHROC)

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Thursday, August 24

Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) golf outing fundraiser, London Country Club, 1199 Spring Valley Rd., London, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration | 10:00am Shotgun Start. \$1,000 Ace Sponsor, \$700 Eagle Sponsor, \$500 Cart Sponsorship, \$250 Hole Sponsorship, \$150 Cart Sponsorship, \$100 Tee Sponsorship, \$85 Individual to Hackett for Ohio)

Hamilton County GOP State Legislators golf outing fundraiser, Glenview Golf Course, 10965 Springfield Pike, Cincinnati, 10 a.m., (\$1500 Sponsor; \$300 Hole Sponsor; \$175 Golfer)

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Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) shooting fundraiser, Nagle Trucking, 4520 Moline-Martin Road, Walbridge, 1:30 p.m., (Expert: \$250; Sharpshooter: \$100 to Citizens for Gavarone)

Monday, August 28

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) golf outing fundraiser, Moundbuilders Country Club, 125 N. 33rd Street, Newark, 10 a.m., (10:00am Registration; 11:00am Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$2,500; Food and Beverage Sponsor: \$1,000; Tee Sponsor: \$750; Foursome: \$500; Individual Golfer: \$125; Green Sponsor: \$100 to Citizens for Scott Ryan)

Wednesday, August 30

Rep. Adam Miller (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Condados Downtown, 132 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$500 or Suggested Donation: \$250 to Miller for Ohio)

Thursday, August 31

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) & Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fundraiser, Muirfield Village Country Club, 8715 Memorial Drive, Dublin, 8:30 a.m., (\$500 each committee to Citizens for Bill Beagle and Peterson for Good Government)
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Sunday, September 10

Rep. Marlene Anielski (R-Walton Hills) Pig Roast Clam Bake fundraiser, Heidelberg Distributing Company, 9101 E. Pleasant Valley Road, Independence, 2 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Couple: \$140; Individual: \$75; Dozen Extra Clams: \$15 to Friends of Marlene B. Anielski)

Tuesday, September 12

Democratic gubernatorial debate, Martins Ferry High School, 5000 Ayers Limestone Rd., Martins Ferry
House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) fundraiser, Athletic Club, Gold Rm., 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$5,000; Sponsor: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Guest: \$500 to Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger)

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Rep. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) fundraiser, Plank's Caf~~e~~, 743 Parsons Avenue, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Platinum Level - \$2,500; Gold Level - \$1,500; Silver Level - \$1,000; Bronze - \$500 or \$350 per person to Committee for Jim Hughes)
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Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) Day at the Races fundraiser, Belterra, 6301 Kellogg Rd., Cincinnati, 12:30 p.m., (11:30am Park Opens | 12:30pm Lunch | 1:45pm Live Racing Begins. \$1500 Triple Crown | \$1,000 Champion | \$750 Winner's Circle | \$500 Thoroughbred | \$250 Jockey Club | \$100 per Attendee The Committee to Elect Joe Uecker)

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OHROC Chairman's Cup golf outing fundraiser

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OSBA Law & Media Conference, Ohio State Bar Association, 1700 Lake Shore Dr., Columbus, 9:30 a.m., (Registration at 8:30 a.m. For more information contact Halle Malcomb, hmalcomb@ohiobar.org)

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Republican Senate Campaign Committee pig roast fundraiser, Land Grant Brewery, 424 W. Town St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$10,000 Whole Hog Sponsor | \$5,000 Half Hog Sponsor | \$2,500 Loin Sponsor | \$1000 Bacon Sponsor | \$500 per Attendee to RSCC)

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Ohio House Republican Organizing Committee fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to OHROC)

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**Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Golf Outing, The Lakes, 6740
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17 S. High St. Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

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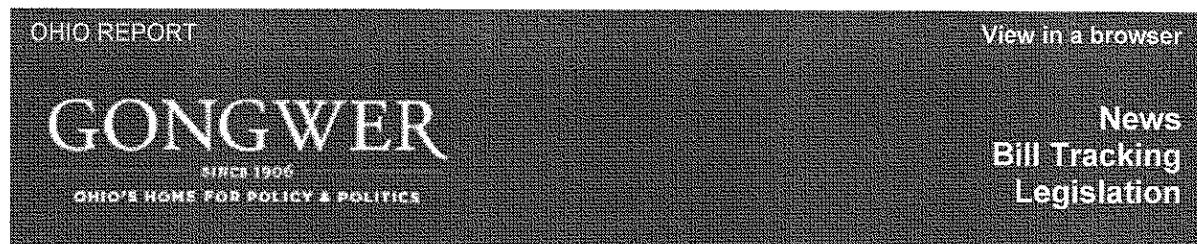
Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger,
Jon Reed, Staff Writers

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OHIO REPORT FRIDAY, AUGUST 18

Reducing Regulations Among Legislative Priorities For Fall

High Court Sets Oral Arguments In Abortion Cases

Few Districts Meet Recommendation To Delay Start Of School Day

Ohio Unemployment Rate Moves Up To 5.2%

Roegner Announces Senate Bid; Buckeye Institute Opines On Potential Veto Overrides...

OSU Study: \$152M In Lost Property Value Thanks To Algal Blooms...

Report Links STEM Skills, Quality Pre-K; President Approves GI Bill Expansion...

Agency Briefs: RFP Issued For Marijuana Monitoring System; AG; SOS; EPA; BWC; MHAS; DNR

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Event Planner

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Event Planner

Saturday, August 19

Ohio Democratic Women's Caucus Luncheon, Hilton Columbus Downtown, 401 N High St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Keynote Speaker is Kathleen Sebelius. For more information contact Rachel Rossi (rachel@ohiodems.org))

Monday, August 21

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Urbana Country Club, 4761 US-36, Urbana, (9:00 am Registration | 10:00 am Shotgun Start | Lunch at the turn on the go | 2:30 pm Short Program. \$1,000 Tournament Sponsor; \$600 Eagle Sponsor; \$200 Hole Sponsor; \$100 Golfer)

OHROC Lake Erie Boat Cruise and Reception with Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton), and Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Fremont), Catawba Island Club, 4235 E. Beach Club Road, Port Clinton, 5:30 p.m., (5:30pm Arrive at Catawba Island Club; 6:00pm Depart on Burger Yacht "Gemini"; 8:00pm Reception. Sponsor: \$5,000; Host: \$2,500; Patron: \$1,000; Guest: \$500 to OHROC)

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Volume #86, Report #160 -- Friday, August 18, 2017

Reducing Regulations Among Legislative Priorities For Fall

With the biennial budget, veto overrides notwithstanding, in the rearview mirror, Senate President Larry Obhof hopes his chamber will work on legislation designed to make life easier for businesses.

One way the Medina Republican plans to do that is not by adding new laws, but by removing or simplifying old ones.

"We'll focus on getting government red tape and regulation out of the way and hopefully continue to build our economy and build off the improvements we've made the last few years," Sen. Obhof said this week.



Sen. Obhof

One of the priorities for the Senate Republicans leader includes finding bits of regulation that are burdensome for business and aren't working the way they're supposed to. He said he wanted each member of his caucus to find examples of failing regulation and work to fix them, whether by eliminating language or streamlining it.

"We talk a lot on the campaign trail, both parties do, about getting red tape and regulations out of the way," he said. "When you get to work, people start to pass new laws and regulations."

"We ought to all go out and find one example of something that's not working right and get rid of it," he continued. "They don't have to be big things, necessarily, but the more things like that that we do, you're slowly but surely making it easier for some small business owners."

Even if the change doesn't affect every Ohioan, he said, it could be significant for the few it does affect.

"I think we're going to be pretty serious this fall about trying to get rid of parts of the Ohio Revised Code, scale them back, make them easier to understand, easier to read, removing some of the hurdles government has put in the way of our job creators," he said.

Other priorities for the fall include economic development, the opioid crisis and workforce development, he said.

The Senate will be in session Tuesday, with the agenda expected to focus heavily on budget veto overrides. More override votes are possible in September, Sen. Obhof said.

The chamber will also see some committee action Tuesday, including the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, which will hear a bill (SB 164) to ban abortions based on a Down syndrome diagnosis.

On the House side, the post-budget plan is still in the works, said Brad Miller, a spokesman for Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville).

"Legislative priorities for the fall are still under consideration and will be the product of conversations and input between the Speaker and members of the caucus," Mr. Miller said in an email.

Some of the House's work could stem from the speaker's task forces, some of which have begun their work, including one on education and poverty (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 17, 2017) and another on Alzheimer's and dementia (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 8, 2017).

High Court Sets Oral Arguments In Abortion Cases

The state's highest court will hear two high-profile abortion cases in September, including one that has triggered calls for a justice's recusal.

Both cases stem from abortion-related provisions in the 2014-15 state budget (HB59 130th General Assembly).

The first case, set to be heard on Sept. 12, was brought to the high court by the Department of Health, which has defended the constitutionality of restrictions imposed on a Toledo abortion clinic. (Docket)

The case is the result of a 2014 department decision to shutter the city's last abortion clinic, Capital Care Network of Toledo, after it determined a patient transfer agreement it had inked with an Ann Arbor hospital ran afoul of state law because the facility was not "local."

However, both the Lucas County Common Pleas Court and the Sixth District Court of Appeals sided with the clinic, which has remained open.

ODH argues that the decision to shutter the clinic was lawful, the one-subject rule was not violated by placing the requirement in the budget, the clinic did not raise an "undue burden" challenge and the ambulatory requirement is constitutional.

The "undue burden" standard, which was used by the lower courts to strike down the requirement, was created by the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*.

However, ODH argues that the high court should not view the case through that lens because the clinic did not raise the issue.

"The court should vacate the undue burden holding and set the issue aside, as the clinic never raised such a challenge. And as part of not raising it as a legal issue, the clinic also never presented any factual evidence to meet its burden to overcome the law," ODH wrote in a court filing.

"Vacating the holding still allows this clinic or any other abortion clinic to raise an undue burden challenge in a separate case, and indeed, at least two clinics are doing so in a federal case."

Among the clinic's arguments are that the 2013 budget violated the single-subject rule, that the provision amounts to an undue burden and that it is unconstitutional.

"The three transfer agreement provisions were introduced late in the legislative process as riders to the budget bill with little or no opportunity for public debate. At the end of the state budget process Ohio legislators buried controversial anti-abortion provisions in the several thousand pages of a budget bill that was sure to pass," the brief reads.

"The written transfer agreement provisions, which are inherently controversial and of significant constitutional import, were not debated and approved during a fair and open legislative process. HB59 frustrates the single-subject rule's purpose of preventing logrolling and ensuring 'a more orderly and fair legislative process.'"

The case already stirred controversy after Justice Sharon Kennedy spoke at a Greater Toledo Right to Life event in March. That led NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio to unsuccessfully call on her to recuse herself in the case.

This week, Capital Care attorney Jennifer Branch made an official request for Justice Kennedy's recusal in a filing with the court.

"Since this court accepted jurisdiction in this case, Justice Kennedy's impartiality in deciding this case involving an abortion provider has been reasonably questioned by various Ohioans due to her connections to anti-abortion and pro-life organizations," the attorney wrote.

ProgressOhio also filed an ethics complaint against Justice Kennedy that was recently dismissed.

The second case, slated for oral arguments on Sept. 26, was also brought forward by the state after two lower courts found a Cleveland-based clinic had standing to sue over several abortion-related provisions in the budget bill. (Docket)

Along with the transfer agreement provision, Preterm-Cleveland has also taken issue with a ban on public hospitals from entering into those agreements and a requirement that doctors inform pregnant women about a detectable heartbeat.

"Preterm's change of conduct to avoid running afoul of these new requirements constitutes injury-in-fact for standing purposes, traceable to the enactment of HB59," its brief reads. "Its requested relief - an order declaring that HB59 violates the one-subject rule and severing and enjoining the provisions it has shown create disunity - will redress Preterm's injury and cure the identified constitutional defect."

The state, however, argues that the abortion clinic does not have standing to sue because it has not been able to demonstrate that it has been injured by the budget provisions.

"Ohio's Constitution allows courts to hear only justiciable controversies involving parties with standing, so relaxing the rules is unconstitutional. Applying the rules here is straightforward: Preterm must show standing as to each provision it challenges, and it fails on all counts," the state's brief reads.

Few Districts Meet Recommendation To Delay Start Of School Day

Most students heading back to school over the next few weeks won't be reporting to first period any later than in past years, despite district attempts to accommodate research that shows later start times can be beneficial to student health.

Various districts throughout the state report studying later start times in the last few years, but a recent accounting of states where schools have made changes doesn't include Ohio.

Schools in at least 19 states delayed starting bell times for the new academic year, according to a Start School Later report. They include a handful of schools in the surrounding states of Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Indiana.

"Every year we see more and more schools delaying bell times to improve student sleep, health, and learning," Start School Later Executive Director Terra Ziporyn Snider said. "Not all of them will be starting middle and high schools at 8:30 or later, as health professionals recommend, but they are moving to schedules that are healthier and safer for many more students."

The American Academy of Pediatrics, National PTA, American Medical Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Association of School Nurses, and the Society of Pediatric Nurses are among the groups backing later start times.

Although Ohio doesn't keep track of when districts are starting the day, Start School Later has determined that about 7:30 a.m. is the most common time for middle and high school students to head to first period. The national average is 7:59 a.m., according to the CDC.

Those times conflict with research that shows students, particularly teens, get their best sleep between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m.

Stacy Simera, a spokeswoman for Start School Later, said students who lack sleep are more likely to be obese, have trouble focusing in school, suffer sports injuries, be involved in car accidents, and become addicted to drugs, among other issues.

The connection between additional sleep for teens and improved health and academic outcomes has caught the attention of district leaders, but resulting changes to bell schedules in Ohio have been few and far between. Districts often point to increased costs as the reason for maintaining the status quo.

Olentangy Local School District, which is the seventh largest district the state, is among those that studied the possibility of later start times over the last few years, but chose not to move forward with them. It announced over the summer that changes would require purchasing an additional 141 school buses at a cost of \$12.5 million and adding \$7.8 million in annual operating costs.

Like others who've looked into making moves, the district also determined that parents of elementary students don't support earlier start times for their students so that later middle and high school times can be accommodated.

Bus schedules and concerns about child care "are two of the principal challenges in terms of trying to move the start times," said Tom Ash, director of governmental relations for the Buckeye Association of School Administrators.

"You have districts that, in order to economize (busing), have what are known as double, triple and even quadruple runs, so they might even be serving two, three or four schools with kids of different ages," he said. "So that becomes an issue."

Mr. Ash said districts aren't dismissing the research on earlier start times, they're just simply running into roadblocks to implement them.

There are districts that have modified start times without increased costs, though, Ms. Simera contended. If there are costs, she said that they shouldn't be a deal breaker.

"Not only can every school afford healthy start times, schools can no longer afford not to. As an Ohio taxpayer and mental health clinician, it concerns me that we are ignoring such low-hanging fruit in fighting two Ohio-specific epidemics: obesity and substance abuse - both of which are correlated with chronic deficient sleep," she said.

"While we know there are many factors involved in obesity and substance abuse, we should certainly address one of the known factors that we can greatly influence - namely healthy sleep."

According to Start School Later, districts that have pushed back start times without incurring additional costs include Hudson, Dublin, Kenston, and Perrysburg schools.

Westlake and Parma schools also pushed back start times when they eliminated busing for high school students.

Ohio Unemployment Rate Moves Up To 5.2%

The biggest increases occurred in leisure and hospitality (+5,200), local government (+3,900) and financial activities (+1,200) sectors. July's biggest losses were in goods-producing industries (-2,700) and business services (-2,400).

Over the last 12 months, Ohio added 47,500 jobs, led by private service providers (37,700) and construction (5,900), ODJFS reported. The larger drops occurred in trade, transportation, and utilities (-4,900) and durable goods manufacturing (-1,800).

Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive vice president at the Buckeye Institute, said that along with the labor market dip, Ohioans stopped looking for work as labor force participation fell to national levels at 62.9%.

"In addition, private sector job opportunities continued the stream of bad news, with 2,500 fewer private sector jobs in July compared to June," he said.

"Overall, the Ohio July jobs report is a sober one," Mr. Hederman said. "While one month of data can be a statistical anomaly, policymakers should begin considering measures to increase economic opportunities in Ohio's private sector."

Policy Matters Ohio observed that without the growth in public sector jobs, the state would have lost positions last month. The group reiterated its criticisms of GOP tax policies in recent years.

"State tax giveaways to corporations and the wealthy have not produced the promised job growth. Instead, we have lost the revenue we need to invest in policies like need-based college financial aid that help build the middle class," PMO researcher Hannah Halbert said. "Federal policymakers would be well-served by studying Ohio's performance before implementing tax changes that overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest in the nation."

Roegner Announces Senate Bid; Buckeye Institute Opines On Potential Veto Overrides...

Rep. Kristina Roegner announced her intent to run for the Senate seat currently occupied by term-limited Sen. Frank LaRose.

The Hudson Republican, who is term limited in the House, said her goals if elected to the Senate would be much the same as her priorities in her current seat representing the 37th House District.

"It would absolutely be the same as it's been in the House," she said. "Continue to help set a stage that's inviting to businesses in Ohio and that includes regulatory reform which I've done a lot of in individual industries."

Making the tax climate more competitive with other states by lowering taxes and strengthening the education system would also be priorities, the representative said. So too would be legislation like her pending cosmetology bill (HB 189) which she said would "make it easier and smoother for people to get jobs and not jump through so many hurdles in government."

"I'm going to continue the work we've started and continue that onto the Senate," she said. "I want to make sure government doesn't waste taxpayer dollars. If we can spend taxpayer dollars smarter and get more for it that's what we need to do."

The 27th Senate District encompasses all of Wayne County and parts of Summit and Stark. Other incumbent House members whose districts align with that district include term-limited Rep. Marilyn Slaby and freshman Rep. Scott Wiggam.

Rep. Roegner reported receiving \$78,000 since January in her recent semiannual report, leaving her with about \$78,700 in cash on hand.

Veto Overrides: The Buckeye Institute is weighing in on several outstanding budget veto overrides the Senate may take up next week.

Senators are expected to return Tuesday to consider some of the 11 overrides the House approved in July. How many overrides and which specifically the chamber will choose to take up isn't clear. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 16, 2017)

Among overrides the Institute is urging senators to approve are the governor's vetoes of the Healthy Ohio waiver and of language creating legislative oversight of Medicaid spending increases.

But the group is asking senators to let stand the governor's veto on the Medicaid managed care sales tax replacement plan.

"We agree with Gov. Kasich's veto of the proposed replacement for local Medicaid sales tax revenues and we were disappointed that the Ohio House overrode the governor's veto," said Greg Lawson, an institute research fellow. "This proposal is a tax on insurance plans and as with most government taxes, it is highly unlikely that this new tax will be 'temporary.' It is time for local governments to go to their voters and convince them of the need to raise local taxes for local services rather than blaming Columbus for their inability to spend wisely."

Issue 2: Proponents of the controversial Issue 2 - also known as the "Drug Price Relief Act" - praised ballot language approved by the Ballot Board Thursday.

Yes on Issue 2 and its counterpart, Ohioans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue, negotiated compromise ballot language that the board then signed off on with little discussion. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 17, 2017)

Both sides said the language presented an accurate description of the November ballot issue, which would prohibit the state from purchasing prescription drugs for prices beyond what the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs pays.

"Voters in Ohio are well-informed, smart and angry at the greedy drug companies that have been price-gouging the sick and suffering, and putting profits before patients," said Dennis Willard, a spokesman for the proponents. "The language is simple and straightforward just like our plan to lower drug prices for 4 million Ohioans and save taxpayers \$400 million a year."

Opponents claim the statute, if adopted by voters, would actually drive the cost of drugs higher.

OSU Study: \$152M In Lost Property Value Thanks To Algal Blooms...

Harmful algal blooms in Ohio have cost homeowners \$152 million in lost property value over the last six years, according to researchers.

That figure comes from a new Ohio State University study that examined the financial impacts of blooms in Buckeye Lake and Grand Lake St. Marys. A second study quantified the financial impact of blooms to sport fishing revenue generated by Lake Erie.

OSU bills the reports, published respectively in *Ecological Economics* and the *Journal of Environmental Management* as the first of their kind to put a dollar figure on the impact of algae. Researchers said they hope the studies will equip lawmakers with new information to create adequate algae prevention and cleanup resources.

"Our biggest takeaway is that efforts to prevent and mitigate algal blooms have real, tangible benefits for Ohioans, including property values," said Allen Klaiber, associate professor of agricultural, environmental and development economics at OSU.

The first study examines property values in the two interior lakes, finding that total values fell \$152 million from 2009-2015. Sales prices for homes within one-third of a mile from the lake fell 11-17% while adjacent homes saw prices dropping more than 22%, the report found.

In Buckeye Lake the drop was more severe, with the loss of \$101 million in home sales over six years. Grand Lake St. Marys saw a \$51 million loss.

Regarding Lake Erie, which fuels a \$1.7 billion tourism industry, simulations showed a "moderate" bloom would result in a 10-13% decrease in fishing license sales within 12 miles of the lake.

A severe bloom, akin to what occurred in 2011, would lead to 3,600 fewer licenses sold and as much as \$5.6 million in lost revenue in a single summer, the researchers determined.

Governor Appointment Reaction: The Ohio Environmental Council praised Gov. John Kasich's recent appointment of Sarah Spence to the Public Benefits Advisory Board. Ms. Spence is OEC's director of government affairs and was appointed this week.

"The board works with the director of the development services agency to ensure energy services are provided to low-income consumers in Ohio in an affordable manner," said Aryeh Alex, the OEC's vice president of public affairs. "Sarah is the right person for the job, and will add a strong environmental voice to the governor's administration."

Rover: A cease-and-desist order from the government of West Virginia was recently lifted, clearing the Rover Pipeline project to continue. That's over the objections of environmental groups who argue the project is harming the environment.

Meanwhile, a new *Bloomberg* analysis determined that the Rover project has set a new record for environmental violations. The publication determined the project, since its approval in February, has racked up more violations than any other major interstate natural gas pipeline built in the last two years.

Rover filings showed 104 negative inspection reports, according to *Bloomberg*. The next closest was the Williams' Virginia Southside Expansion which reported 26 violations.

To be fair, the 710-mile Rover is a longer pipeline than other projects included in the analysis. Still, the next longest - the 515-mile Enbridge Sabal Trail - reported 18 violations.

Energy Transfer Partners, the company behind the project, said it is working with regulatory agencies at all levels to meet safety and environmental regulations. But friction continues between the company, opponents and regulatory agencies in Ohio and beyond. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 7, 2017)

Report Links STEM Skills, Quality Pre-K; President Approves GI Bill Expansion...

Business and military leaders are calling on state leaders to focus on early childhood education to ensure students are better prepared to enter the future workforce.

They joined Council for Strong America this week to release a new report highlighting the correlation between high-quality Pre-K and STEM skills.

The analysis also details projections for STEM workforce growth - an area that military and tech business stakeholders said during a Dayton press conference is a major concern. Health and computer technology industries are expected to grow by as much as 37% nationwide in the coming years, they said.

Currently, 65% of eight graders aren't proficient in math and 60% aren't proficient in science, the report shows. About one-third of college students, meanwhile, require remediation in math or English.

"As a result, employers - both in the private sector and the military - are struggling to find the STEM skilled workforce they need," the authors of the report wrote. "That is why business and military leaders in Ohio are calling on policymakers to invest more in high-quality early education where STEM skills take root."

According to the report, research shows that individuals with early exposure to math have improved abilities in the subject area later on and that early learning supports cognitive abilities as well as social and emotional skills that are beneficial in STEM career fields.

"The young people we will seek to recruit for the military, postsecondary education, and private sector jobs in less than 15 years should be entering pre-K today," former Adjutant General Deborah Ashenhurst said in a statement. "A greater investment in high-quality pre-K will have lasting impact for our children, for Ohio, and for our nation."

GI Bill: The president this week signed bipartisan legislation to expand education opportunities to post-9/11 veterans and restore GI Bill benefits to those who attended now-defunct technical colleges.

The bill removes a 15-year time limit on the benefits, allowing veterans and their dependents to use them for life. Among other things, it also extends eligibility for reservists, provides full benefits for Purple Heart recipients and increases GI Bill payments by \$2,300 per year for veterans with less than 12 months of active service.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland), who helped draft the measure, applauded its enactment.

In particular, he pushed for provisions that restore benefits to veterans who attended shuttered career technical colleges and alert veterans to schools offering priority enrollment

"Ohio veterans deserve better than to have the rug pulled out from under them by for-profit colleges," Sen. Brown said in a statement. "This bill is an important step towards rectifying the fraudulent practices of these schools and restoring and expanding the GI benefits our veterans have earned."

The measure also expands eligibility for the Department of Veterans Affairs' Yellow Ribbon Program to spouses and children of service members who died in combat. The program that helps students avoid out-of-pocket college costs above their GI Bill benefits is currently available only to veterans and spouses and children of service members.

Insurance: An insurance checklist for college students and their parents is now available from the Department of Insurance.

The checklist details insurance options for illness and injury, dental and eye care, personal protections and liability, renters and vehicles.

"Life away from home is a great opportunity for young adults to learn and grow, but it also presents considerations and challenges," ODI Director Jillian Froment said. "It is important that students and parents conduct an insurance review and consider including an insurance agent in the process."

Survey: The Ohio Department of Education is seeking input on proposed updates to Ohio's model curriculum for English and math in grades K-12. An online survey will be open through Sept. 13.

The model curriculum, which is set to go before the State Board of Education for approval this fall, will serve as a guide for teachers to help them better understand the knowledge and skills required under Ohio's Learning Standards - the basis for state tests.

Agency Briefs: RFP Issued For Marijuana Monitoring System; AG; SOS; EPA; BWC; MHAS; DNR

The state's Medical Marijuana Control Program is seeking a contractor for a system to monitor video surveillance at growers, processors and dispensaries.

The Department of Commerce issued the request for proposals this week as the program's rules, which cleared the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review at the end of July, were officially filed.

The rules go into effect Sept. 8. They cleared JCARR after a nearly yearlong development process that began following the program's enabling legislation, which went into effect last fall. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 31, 2017)

The RFP for the video management system requires one that can accept feeds from any camera operator and allow the state to see inside facilities at any time.

"Given an initial camera population of over 1,000 cameras across an Ohio medical marijuana entity facility population of 100+ facilities, the State requires an efficient means of monitoring camera operational status as well as an efficient path for identifying a particular camera at a particular facility for real-time camera viewing," the state said in its description.

Attorney General: Mike DeWine and attorneys general from 49 other states and territories urged Congress to amend the Communications Decency Act of 1996 to clarify that states and local governments can investigate and prosecute facilitators of child sex trafficking wherever they operate, including online.

"The proposed amended language to the Communications Decency Act will help to ensure that citizens and children are effectively protected throughout the entire country,

in all courts," Attorney General DeWine said in a statement. "The intention of the Communications Decency Act is to protect children from indecent material online. It was never intended to place facilitators of child sex trafficking outside the reach of law enforcement."

Courts have interpreted the current language to allow only federal authorities to take action against companies that facilitate sex trafficking. The AGs urged in their letter for the law to be clarified.

Secretary of State: Jon Husted announced that all filings required to start or maintain a business in Ohio can now be submitted online. Owners can also submit all Uniform Commercial Code statements and certified search requests through the web, he said.

"Since day one, our office has committed itself to working on behalf of job creators and entrepreneurs to make it easier to start and maintain a business in Ohio," Secretary Husted said in a statement. "By improving the way our office does business, we are helping companies cut costs, save time, and reduce administrative burden so they can focus on providing quality services and products, as well as create jobs."

The secretary's office also announced that 8,800 new entities filed to do business in the state in July, up 1,279 compared to the previous July. A total of 71,979 entities have filed in Ohio this year.

Ohio EPA: The agency will hold a public hearing next week to receive comments on proposed water quality standards, including standards covering pesticides, dredged material and E. coli.

The hearing will begin at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, in the Ohio EPA Conference Center at 50 West Town Street in Columbus.

Written comments can be sent to Rules Coordinator, Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049, or emailed to dsw_rulecomments@epa.ohio.gov, through Aug. 23.

Workers' Compensation: The bureau announced that seven employers and injured workers who attempted to defraud the agency were convicted in July. The BWC's special investigations department has totaled 90 convictions so far this year.

"Workers' compensation fraud raises the cost of the system for everyone involved," said SID Director Jim Wernecke. "I hope these latest convictions serve as a reminder to those attempting to steal from BWC: We have investigators all over the state. We will find you, bring you to justice and make you repay the funds you illicitly acquired."

Mental Health and Addiction Services: The department said it is conducting a needs assessment with treatment providers as part of activities connected to the federal 21st Century CURES Act. The department is collecting information on what providers are doing and what needs they have for treating people with opioid-related disorders.

The assessment runs through Sept. 8. Providers who did not receive invitations can contact Laura Potts at laura.potts@mha.ohio.gov.

Natural Resources: The department announced it will hold special deer hunts at six state nature preserves across the state. Drawings will be held for the hunts, and entries cost \$5.

Governor's Appointments

Ohio University Board of Trustees: Stephen P. Casciani of Delaware (Delaware Co.) for a term beginning Aug. 18 and ending May 13, 2026.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, August 22

Public Facilities Commission, 35th Fl., 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, 2 p.m.

Thursday, August 24

BWC Board of Directors, Rm. 3, Level 2, 30 W. Spring St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m. (The Investment Committee will meet 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.; the Actuarial Committee 10:30 a.m. to noon; the Medical Services & Safety Committee 1 to 2 p.m.; the Governance Committee 2 to 2:30 p.m.; and the Audit Committee 2:30 to 4 p.m. The Actuarial, Governance and Audit Committee meetings may begin earlier if the preceding meeting adjourns earlier than scheduled.)

Friday, August 25

BWC Board of Directors, Rm. 3, Level 2, 30 W. Spring St., Columbus, 8 a.m.

Monday, August 28

Southern Ohio Agricultural & Community Development Foundation, 100 S. High St., Hillsboro, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 13

Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board, Suite 1500, 50 W. Broad St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

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Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, August 19- Monday, August 21

Legislative Committees

Monday, June 4

Canceled: Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (Committee Record) (Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 121, 1:30 p.m.

Agency Calendar

Monday, August 21

Controlling Board, North Hearing Rm., Senate Bldg., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Saturday, August 19

Ohio Democratic Women's Caucus Luncheon, Hilton Columbus Downtown, 401 N High St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Keynote Speaker is Kathleen Sebelius. For more information contact Rachel Rossi (rachel@ohiodems.org))

Monday, August 21

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Urbana Country Club, 4761 US-36, Urbana, (9:00 am Registration | 10:00 am Shotgun Start | Lunch at the turn on the go | 2:30 pm Short Program. \$1,000 Tournament Sponsor; \$600 Eagle Sponsor; \$200 Hole Sponsor; \$100 Golfer)

OHROC Lake Erie Boat Cruise and Reception with Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton), and Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Fremont), Catawba Island Club, 4235 E. Beach Club Road, Port Clinton, 5:30 p.m., (5:30pm Arrive at Catawba Island Club; 6:00pm Depart on Burger Yacht "Gemini"; 8:00pm Reception. Sponsor: \$5,000; Host: \$2,500; Patron: \$1,000; Guest: \$500 to OHROC)

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From: Rossman, Brent
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2017 10:43 AM
To: House_All
Subject: Goodbye!
Attachments: IMG_2029.JPG

Good morning everyone,

Since I started in the House, I've had the Ashbrook Center's pocket Constitution and Declaration perched upon my desk. It's a neat little booklet that also contains Lincoln's Second Inaugural, the Gettysburg Address, and excerpts from some of Thomas Jefferson's letters. I've turned to it many times for inspiration, and occasionally, for work purposes. I carried this same pocket constitution while I was in college, when I was just beginning to understand the depth of meaning contained in our Founding documents.

Now, I am excited to carry this same little booklet back to the Ashbrook Center to embark on a new chapter in my career. With it, I carry back a deeper understanding of the legislative process, and great experiences in politics. It still astounds me that we all have had the opportunity to help make law and improve the lives of 11.5 million people. I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Ohio. These experiences will all help me with my new mission of cultivating good civics education in our country through the use of primary source documents.

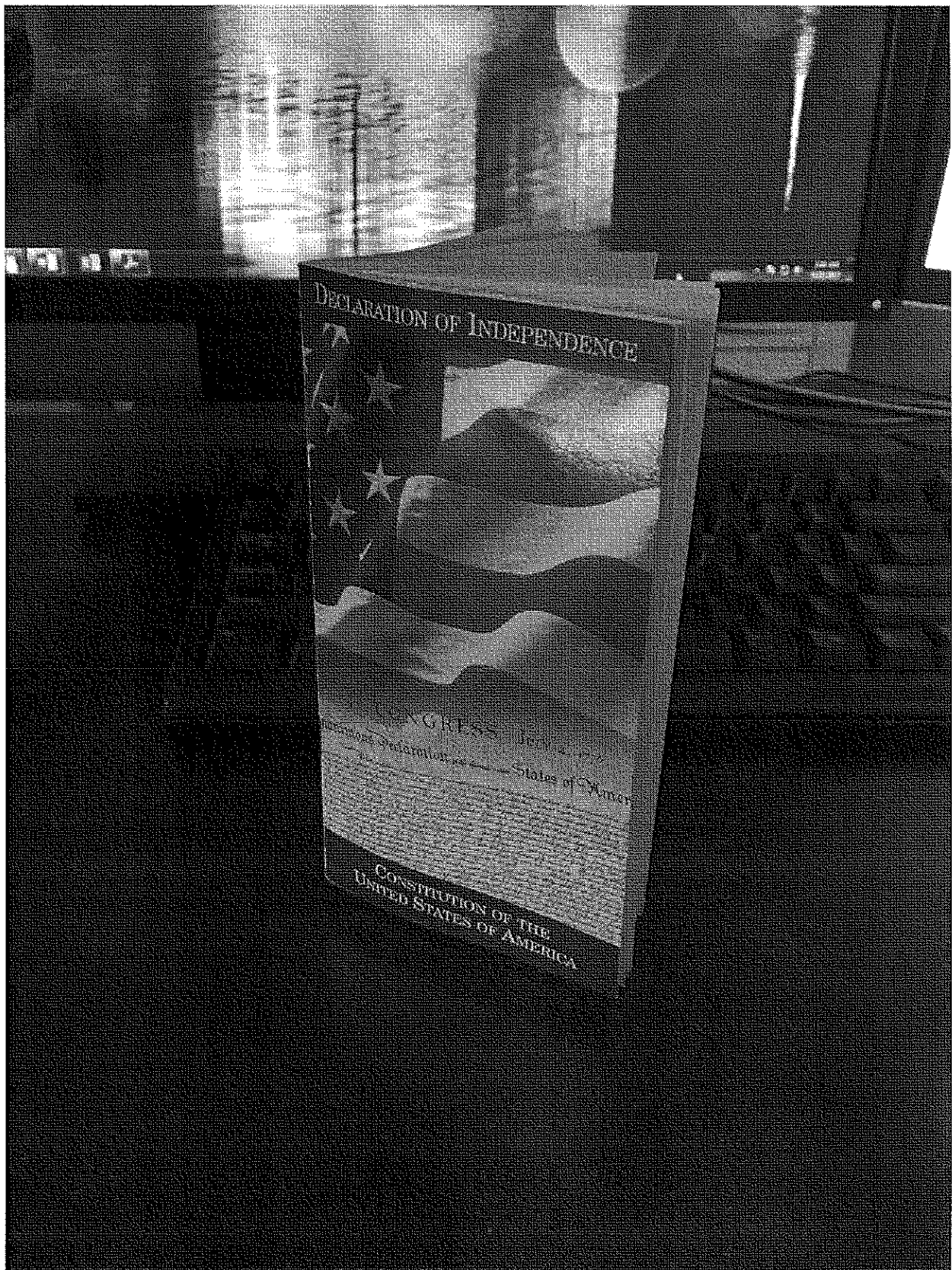
Better yet, I'll also carry with this little booklet memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. I'll miss the House, but I won't be far away. Feel free to stay in touch. My cell is 419-561-0073 and my personal email is brossman4913@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Brent Rossman

Legislative Aide
Representative Wes Goodman
Ohio House of Representatives
District 87

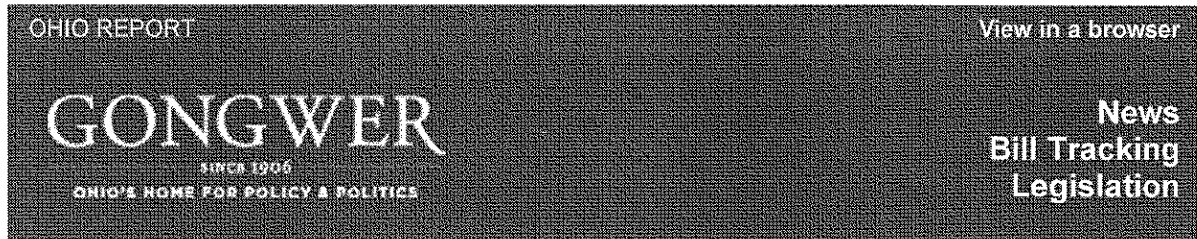
Brent.Rossman@ohiohouse.gov
Office: 614.644.6265
Cell: 419.561.0073



From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2017 6:03 PM
To: DL_Gongwer
Subject: Ohio Report, Friday, September 29, 2017
Attachments: 170929plan.htm; Sep29.htm; Oct2Schedule.htm; 170929dayplan.htm

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Senate Weighs Healthy Ohio Proposal, Looks At Submission Options

Abortion Totals Continued To Decline In 2016, State Reports

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Event Planner

Sunday, October 1

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 50th Anniversary events, Canton, (5:15-6:15pm: Welcome Reception & Hall of Fame Tours; 6:15pm-8:15: Program & Dinner; 8:20pm-10:00pm: Live Music with the Four Keeps; 10:00pm: After Party Reception at the M-Bar)

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fall fest fundraiser, Peterson Farm, 5564 Grassy Branch Rd., Sabina, 4 p.m., (\$25 per Person or \$50 per Family to Peterson for Good Government)

Monday, October 2

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 50th Anniversary events, Canton, (10:30am: Golf Outing Start (registration begins at 8:30am); 1:00pm: First Ladies Library Tour (registration begins at 12:00pm); 2:00pm: President McKinley Museum Tour (registration begins at 12:00pm); 3:00pm-4:00pm: OLBC Cookout/Reception at the National Historic Clearview Golf Course)

Lobbyist and Employer Activity & Expenditure Reports for the May-August 2017 reporting period are due

OHROC Chairman's Cup golf outing fundraiser, Virtues Golf Club, 1 Long Drive, Nashport, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Host: \$5,000; Event Sponsor: \$2,500; Tee Sponsor: \$1,250; Foursome: \$1,000; Individual Golfer: \$250; Reception Only: \$100 to OHROC)

Tuesday, October 3

Ohio Domestic Violence Network to recognize National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Museum Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 4

Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) & Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Muirfield Village Country Club, 8715 Memorial Drive, Dublin, 8:30 a.m., (\$500 each committee to Troy Balderson for State Senate and Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)
Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) cigar fundraiser, Lexi's, 100 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 4:30 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)

Thursday, October 5

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Hidden Creek Golf Club, 6245 Sugar Creek Lane, Lima, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration | 10:00am Shotgun Start. \$1,000 Event Sponsor | \$400 per Team | \$200 Tee Sponsor | \$100 per Golfer to Matt Huffman for Ohio)

Sen. Louis Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Schilderink residence, 9675 Cunningham Road, Cincinnati, 6 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Sponsor | \$1,000 Sponsor | \$500 Host | \$250 Couple | \$200 Individual to Friends of Lou Terhar)

Sunday, October 8

Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) family picnic, Warren County Armco Park, 1223 OH-741, Lebanon, 1 p.m.

Republican gubernatorial candidate forum, Genoa Baptist Church, 7562 Lewis Center Rd., Westerville, 7 p.m., (Sponsored by Citizens for Community Values and Salem Media of Ohio)

Tuesday, October 10

Rep. Niraj Antani (R-Miamisburg) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Niraj Antani)

Rep. Jeff Rezabek (R-Clayton) and Rep. Nathan Manning (R-North Ridgeville) fundraiser, Ringside, 19 N. Pearl Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Rezabek and/or Manning for Ohio)

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Gold Room, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Chair | \$1000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Matt Huffman for Ohio)

Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Columbus), Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) & Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Lounge, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Chair | \$1,000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Citizens for Kevin Bacon or The Committee to Elect Joe Uecker)

Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) and Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Parlors A&B, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Chair | \$1,000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Friends of Matt Dolan Or Citizens for Hottinger)

Wednesday, October 11

Rep. Thomas West (D-Canton) fundraiser, Dempsey's, 346 S. High St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Team West)

Rep. Terry Johnson (R-McDermott) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Terry Johnson for State Rep)

Rep. Steve Huffman (R-Tipp City) fundraiser, OHROC, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 12 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Steve Huffman for State Rep)

Rep. Ron Young (R-Leroy Township) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor D, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 Friends of Ron Young)

Rep. Tim Ginter (R-Salem) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Special Guest Former Speaker Bill Batchelder. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Tim Ginter for State Representative)

House Minority Leader Fred Strahorn (D-Dayton) fundraiser, Elevator Brewery and Draught Haus, 161 N. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor levels: Sponsor: \$2,500, Host: \$1,000, Guest: \$500, Friend: \$350 to Committee to Elect Fred Strahorn)

Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) fundraiser, Lexi's on Third, 100 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Chair | \$1,000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Friends of John Eklund)

Sen. Lou Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Fleming residence, 2374 Brixton Road, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Sponsor | \$1,000 Sponsor | \$500 Host | \$250 Couple | \$200 Individual to Friends of Lou Terhar)

Friday, October 13

OSBA Law & Media Conference, Ohio State Bar Association, 1700 Lake Shore Dr., Columbus, 9:30 a.m., (Registration at 8:30 a.m. For more information contact Halle Malcomb, hmalcomb@ohiobar.org)

Tuesday, October 17

Republican Senate Campaign Committee pig roast fundraiser, Land Grant Brewery, 424 W. Town St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$10,000 Whole Hog Sponsor | \$5,000 Half Hog Sponsor | \$2,500 Loin Sponsor | \$1000 Bacon Sponsor | \$500 per Attendee to RSCC)

Rep. Michael Sheehy (D-Oregon) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor levels: Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Committee to Elect Michael Sheehy)

Rep. Adam Miller (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Capital Club, 41 S. High St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Supporter \$500, Attendee \$250 to Miller for Ohio)

Wednesday, October 18

Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Gold Room, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 7:30 a.m., (\$2500 Event Chair | \$1000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Citizens for Lehner)

Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, Einstein's, 41 S High Street, Columbus, 7:30 a.m., (Platinum Sponsor - \$1,000; Gold Sponsor - \$500 or Suggested Contribution - \$350 to Friends of Sandra Williams)

Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton) fundraiser, deNOVO, 150 S. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Special Guest Rep. Ryan Smith. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends for Steve Arndt)

Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Gold Sponsor \$2,500, Silver Sponsor \$1,000, Bronze Sponsor \$500, Supporter \$250 to Kathleen Clyde Committee)

Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Dempsey's, 346 S. High St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes)

Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Scioto Country Club, 2196 Riverside Dr., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Special Guest: Senate President Larry Obhof. Event

Sponsor \$1000, Event Host \$500, \$150 per couple, \$100 per individual to Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)

Thursday, October 19

Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) fundraiser, Maumee Bay Brew Pub, 27 Broadway Street, Toledo, 4:30 p.m., (Friend: \$250; Host: \$500; PAC: \$1,000 to Citizens with Fedor)

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) shooting fundraiser, Vandalia Range and Armory, 100 Corp Center Drive, Vandalia, 5:30 p.m., (\$1,000 Event Sponsor; \$500 Lane Sponsor; \$100 per Person; \$50 Dinner only to Citizens for Bill Beagle)

Tuesday, October 24

Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Lounge, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$10,000; Sponsor: \$5,000; Host: \$2,500; Patron: \$1,000 to Friends of Ryan Smith)

Rep. Jack Cera (D-Bellaire) & Rep. Nick Celebrezze (D-Parma) fundraiser, Gresso's, 961 S. High St., Columbus, 7 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Nicholas J. Celebrezze and Jack Cera for State Representative)

Wednesday, October 25

Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chesterland) and Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to LaTourette for Ohio and/or Citizens for Gavarone)

Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) fundraiser, The Lounge at Latitude 41, Renaissance Hotel, 50 North 3rd Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Friend: \$250; Host: \$500; PAC: \$1,000 to Citizens with Fedor)

Thursday, October 26

Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Cimenero's Banquet Center, 123 N. Main St., Niles, 5 p.m., (Victory Sponsor \$1,400, Touchdown Sponsor \$700, Field Goal Sponsor \$300, Individual Tickets \$50 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes)

Sunday, October 29

Democratic gubernatorial debate, Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High St., Columbus

Ohio Democratic Party state dinner, Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High St., Columbus, (Featured speaker: Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe)

Tuesday, October 31

Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor on the Lake) & Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E Livingston Ave, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000,

Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Rogers and Committee to Elect John Patterson)

Wednesday, November 1

Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) & Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) fundraiser, Einstein's Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High St., Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Emilia Sykes Campaign and Sykes for Office)

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) and Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel and/or Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio)

Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Dave Greenspan)

Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) and Rep. Bill Blessing (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,000; Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Individual: \$350 to Seitz for Ohio and/or Citizens for Blessing)

Rep. Bernadine Kent (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Lincoln Cafe, 740 E. Long St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Kent for Ohio)

Thursday, November 2

Rep. Steve Hambley (R-Medina) fundraiser, High & Low Winery, 588 Medina Road, Wadsworth, 6 p.m., (Special Guest President Larry Obhof. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Hambley for House Committee)

Wednesday, November 8

Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) and Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) fundraiser, OHROC, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 Citizens for Duffey and/or Lanese for Ohio)
Sen. Cliff Hite (R-Findlay) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$2,500 Chair | \$1,000 Host | \$500 Sponsor | \$350 Attendee to The Committee to Elect Cliff Hite)

Tuesday, November 28

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) fundraiser, Pub Mahone, 31 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Scott Ryan)

Wednesday, November 29

Rep. Michele LePore-Hagan (D-Youngstown) fundraiser, Einstein Bros. Bagels, 41 S High Street, Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Michele Lepore-Hagan for State Representative)

Rep. Scott Lipps (R-Franklin) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Special Guest Rep. Ryan Smith. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Scott Lipps)

Ohio House Republican Organizing Committee fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to OHROC)

Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Butler for Ohio)

Thursday, November 30

Rep. Derek Merrin (R-Monclova Township) fundraiser, OHROC, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Derek Merrin)

Tuesday, December 5

Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) fundraiser, Ringside, 19 N. Pearl Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Special Guest Rep. Ryan Smith. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Gary Scherer)

Wednesday, December 6

Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to Citizens for Schuring Committee)

Wednesday, February 28

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Legislative Luncheon, Renaissance Hotel, 50 N. 3rd St., Columbus, 12 p.m.

Monday, June 4

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Golf Outing, The Lakes, 6740 Worthington Rd., Westerville

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